UNKNOWN
Tsumuji Yoshimura
4
FINAL

UNKNOWN

contents

CHAPTER 15:
CONTRADICTION (CONSISTENCY) ——— 003

CHAPTER 16:
BELIEVER (BETRAYAL) ——— 047

CHAPTER 17:
SMILING YOU AND YOU (SPILT MILK) ——— 083

CHAPTER 18:
SEE YOU! (FAREWELL) ——— 121

FINAL CHAPTER:
THE NIGHT BEFORE EASTER (LA VEILLE DE PASCALE) ——— 173

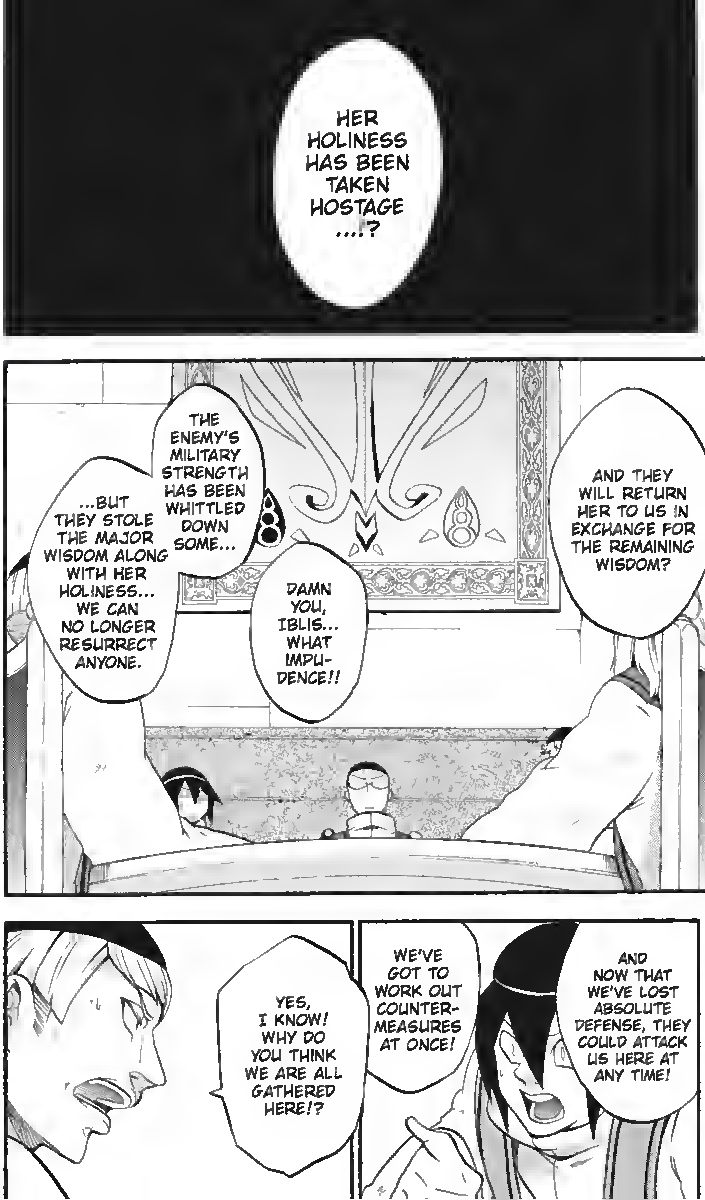
THANK YOU.
YOU CAN LEAVE NOW.
YOUR BROTHER IS WAITING FOR YOU OVER THERE.
NOT AT ALL
TMP
I HOPE EVERYONE'S ALL RIGHT... THAT YELLING AND LIGHTNING WERE SCARY.
I'M GLAD I STAYED HIDDEN LIKE MY BROTHER SAID.
NO, HEY!...
THAT'S NOT RIGHT!! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ABEL!?
SHAKE
SHAKE
YOU'LL NEVER BE OF ANY USE LIKE THIS!!
COME ON, YOU'RE AN ADULT FOR NOW! ACT LIKE IT!!
IS THE OTHER PERSON NEPIOS-SAN.....?
THAT'S IVAN-SAN...
IF YOU MAKE ALL THE WISDOM IN THE WORLD DISAPPEAR
!
=

...YOU DO KNOW THAT YOU'LL DIE THAT VERY MOMENT TOO, RIGHT?
EH?
WHAT...?
YES, I'M WELL AWARE OF THE CONSE-QUENCES.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET MY PERSONAL FEELINGS INTERFERE MORE THAN THEY HAVE ALREADY
WHAT DID HE JUST SAY.....?
WH-WHAT DOES IT MEAN!..?
PLEASE DON'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT TO ANYONE ELSE

STEP
!
AH...
UM...
.....
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
J-JUST A LITTLE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT PART YOU CAUGHT, BUT DO ME A FAVOR AND PRETEND YOU DIDN'T.
EH? BUT...

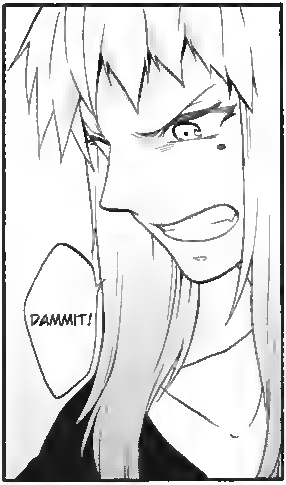
.....
PLEASE.
THANK YOU.
.....
OKAY

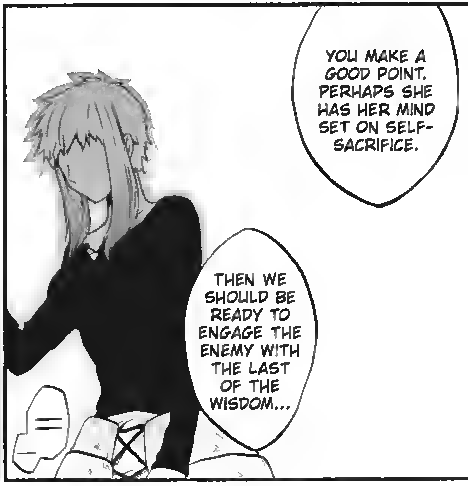
Chapter 15: Contradiction (Consistency)
4
UNKNOWN
Tsumuji Yoshimura


HER HOLINESS HAS BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE ...!?
THE ENEMY'S MILITARY STRENGTH HAS BEEN WHITTLED DOWN SOME...
...BUT THEY STOLE THE MAJOR WISDOM ALONG WITH HER HOLINESS... WE CAN NO LONGER RESURRECT ANYONE.
DAMN YOU, IBLIS... WHAT IMPU-DENCE!!
AND THEY WILL RETURN HER TO US IN EXCHANGE FOR THE REMAINING WISDOM?
YES, I KNOW! WHY DO YOU THINK WE ARE ALL GATHERED HERE!?
WE'VE GOT TO WORK OUT COUNTER-MEASURES AT ONCE!
AND NOW THAT WE'VE LOST ABSOLUTE DEFENSE, THEY COULD ATTACK US HERE AT ANY TIME!

I'M WONDERING IF THAT WOMAN, WHO NOW POSSESSES NO WISDOM, IS WORTH MORE...
...THAN THE REMAINDER OF THE WISDOM
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT WILL WE DO IF THE REMAINDER OF THE WISDOM FALLS INTO THEIR HANDS?
WHAT?
WOULD YOU REALLY GIVE THEM THE WISDOM?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
MIND YOUR TONGUE!
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
...I BELIEVE THAT IS SOMETHING WE MUST CONSIDER.
WHAT...?
HER HOLINESS IS MORE BEAUTIFUL AND NOBLE THAN ANYONE...
I THINK SHE WOULD WANT US...
...TO VALUE THE REMAINING WISDOM OVER HER LIFE.

MURMUR

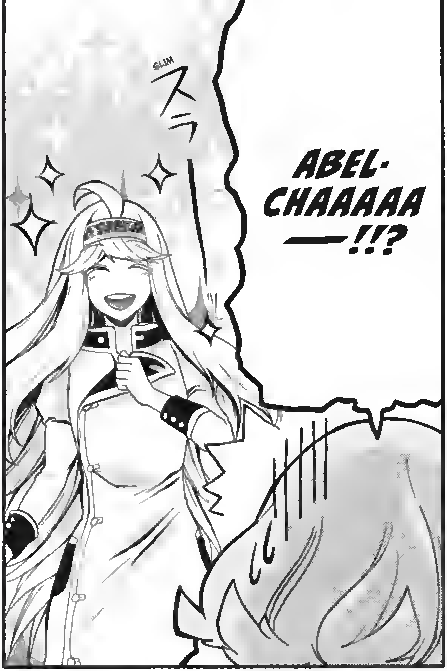

DAMMIT!


YOU MAKE A GOOD POINT. PERHAPS SHE HAS HER MIND SET ON SELF-SACRIFICE.
THEN WE SHOULD BE READY TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY WITH THE LAST OF THE WISDOM...

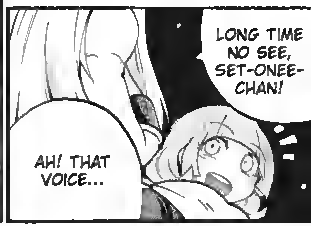
DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS HERE?
IT'S NOTHING
OX-DONO...
? OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO...

WHAT'S WRONG?

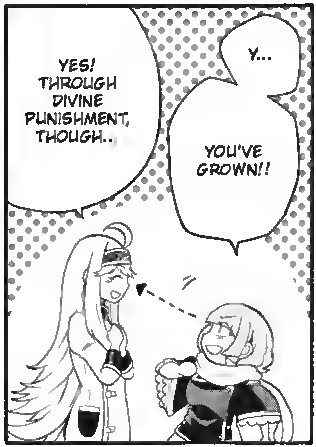
THOSE TWO ARE WAITING FOR YOU AS WELL.
"THOSE TWO"?
HUH? YOU YOURSELF TOLD US TO GATHER INSIDE LATER ON, PASSEGAND-SAN...
!
WHAP
LET US ENTER TOGETH-ER.
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
AH! THERE YOU ARE!
CREAK
SET!
NOAH!
WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!


SLIM
スラ
ABEL-CHAAAAA—!!?

WHEN DID YOU GUYS GET HERE?
JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO!


LONG TIME NO SEE, SET-ONEE-CHAN!
AH! THAT VOICE...

THANK YOU!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, NOAH-SAN!
!
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE GROWN...! WHAT A SLENDER, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN YOU'VE BECOME ...!


Y...
YOU'VE GROWN!!
YES! THROUGH DIVINE PUNISHMENT, THOUGH..

HEY, YOU GOT NOTHIN' TO BE ENVIOUS ABOUT.
H-HOW'S THAT!?
WELL... EXCUSE ME FOR BEING PUDGY!
HEHEHE
YOU'RE BIG IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES, MILADY!
?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT!?
PFFT!!!
KNIGHT STOP
...IS DISRESPECTFUL I DARESAY...!
H-hey...! Cain-kun... That kind of talk...
?
BECKON
BECK...

I NEVER SAID...
...WHICH "RIGHT PLACES."
.....
GRIN にた
GRIN にた
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
PAT ポン
.....THANKS, I THINK?
?
I WAS THINKING WHAT BIG, CUTE EYES YOU'VE GOT, MILADY!
YEP, YEP!
WHY WAS MY MIND IN THE GUTTER...?
NOAH?

WHAT WERE YOU GUYS DOING BEFORE?
HOW RUDE! IMPLYING THAT WE WEREN'T DOING ANYTHING BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP!
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
HMPH!
IT WAS AN INNOCENT QUESTION!
ACTUALLY, WE CAME HERE...
!
FWIP
...TO PICK THESE UP.

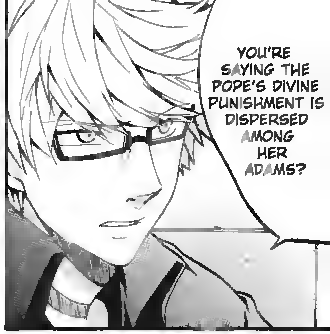
THE UNKNOWN!?
ROLL
THE CLERGY HERE TAUGHT ME, YOU SEE...
THE CLERGY!?
HOW DID YOU GET SO MANY OF THEM?
IT WAS PART OF THE AGREEMENT.
A SUITABLE REWARD...
...IN EXCHANGE FOR COOPERATION WITH THE OPERATION.

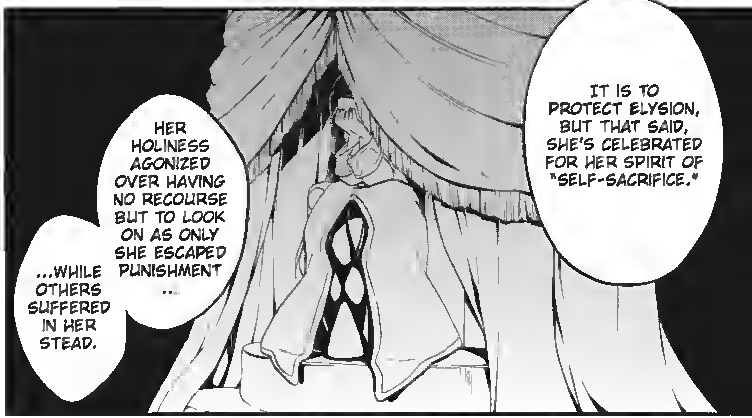
WHAT
はぁ!
THEY ARE THE LAST OF THE WISDOM THAT HER HOLINESS LEFT BEHIND.
!
.....
THAT WAS THE DEAL.
...YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
I DON'T GET IT.
BUT I WILL FOLLOW HER HOLINESS'S WISHES TO THE END.
THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE GONE ALONG WITH IT.
NATURALLY, THE CHURCH *ELDERS* DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.

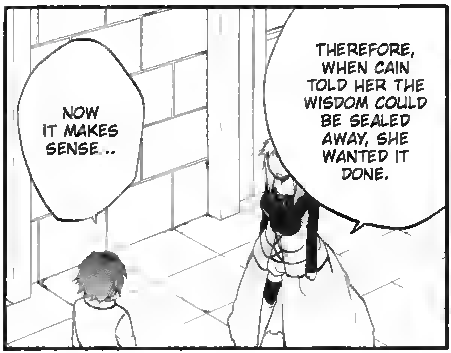
DID YOU KNOW THAT HERE AT ELYSION, HER HOLINESS POSSESSED ALL OF THE WISDOM AS THE SOLE EVE?
EVEN THOUGH SHE ALONE POSSESSED ALL OF THAT WISDOM, THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF DISFIGUREMENT.
YES.
BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY SIGN OF DIVINE PUNISHMENT ON HER! IS THAT WHY SHE'S CALLED "THE WOMAN WHO IS LOVED BY GOD"?
THAT IS THE GREATEST REASON HER HOLINESS HAS ATTAINED THE ROLE OF POPE...
CORRECT.
...BUT THAT IS THE OFFICIAL STORY. IN TRUTH, THE WRATH THAT HER HOLINESS ELUDES...

WHAT ...!?
...FALLS ON US.
NORMALLY, DIVINE PUNISHMENT AFFECTS EACH PERSON IN A UNIQUE WAY. .
..BUT IN MY CASE, I HAVE NUMBNESS IN ADDITION TO THIS CORROSION.
IN FACT, ALL USERS OF HER HOLINESS'S WISDOM SUFFER FROM THEIR OWN DIVINE PUNISHMENT AS WELL AS THIS TYPE OF CORROSION SOMEWHERE ON THEIR BODIES

TUG
PUT SIMPLY, YES.

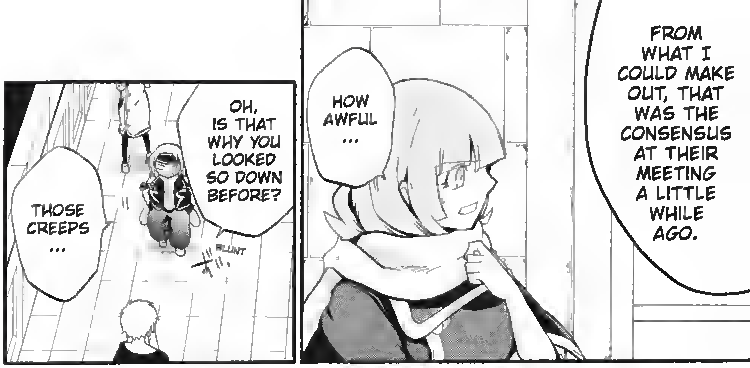

YOU'RE SAYING THE POPE'S DIVINE PUNISHMENT IS DISPERSED AMONG HER ADAMS?


IT IS TO PROTECT ELYSION, BUT THAT SAID, SHE'S CELEBRATED FOR HER SPIRIT OF "SELF-SACRIFICE."
HER HOLINESS AGONIZED OVER HAVING NO RECOURSE BUT TO LOOK ON AS ONLY SHE ESCAPED PUNISHMENT ...
...WHILE OTHERS SUFFERED IN HER STEAD.


THEREFORE, WHEN CAIN TOLD HER THE WISDOM COULD BE SEALED AWAY, SHE WANTED IT DONE.
NOW IT MAKES SENSE..

.....

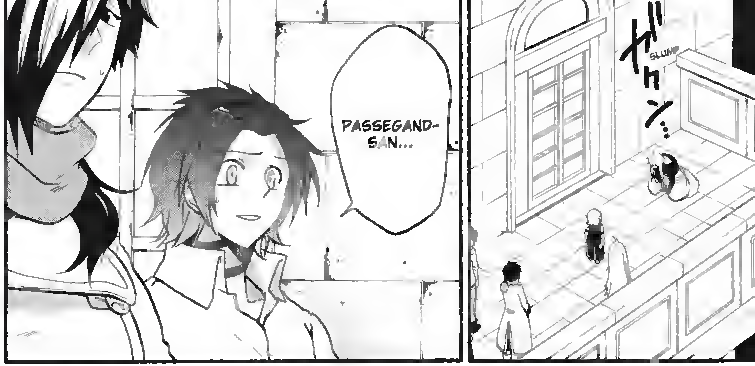
BUT...
...YOU PEOPLE PUT YOUR LIVES ON THE LINE TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION, PROVING YOU WORTHY TO INHERIT THESE.
BUT SHE DIDN'T WANT SOMEONE FROM THE CHURCH TO BE RESPONSIBLE THAT'S WHY THE WHOLE PLAN WAS EXPLAINED TO YOU, AND EVEN THOUGH IT FAILED...
IT SEEMS THE ELDERS HAVE NO INTENTION OF GETTING HER HOLINESS BACK.
HUH!?
.....
..WITHOUT THESE, YOU CAN'T CUT A DEAL WITH THE EMPIRE.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
CLUTCH

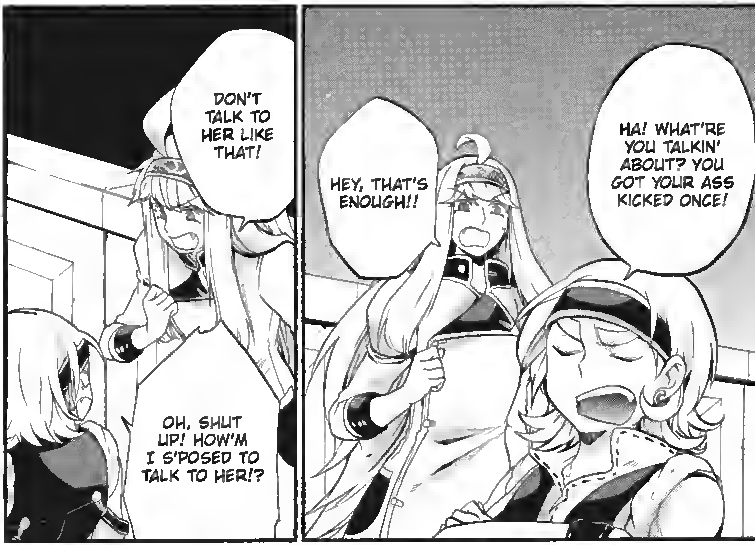

FROM WHAT I COULD MAKE OUT, THAT WAS THE CONSENSUS AT THEIR MEETING A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
HOW AWFUL ...
OH, IS THAT WHY YOU LOOKED SO DOWN BEFORE?
THOSE CREEPS ...
SILENT

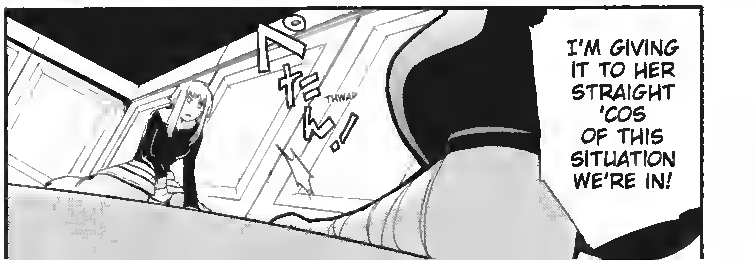
AND EVEN YOU'RE WILLING TO ABANDON HER JUST LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE ONE COLD-HEARTED WITCH.
WHAT ...!?
SNAP

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!! IF I THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO SAVE HER, I WOULD...
...BUT...
BUT WHAT?

I NOT ONLY SUFFERED A CRUSHING DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY...BUT I WAS ALSO UNABLE TO PROTECT HER HOLINESS.
AND I LOST THE WISDOM... NOW THAT I CAN NO LONGER BE HER PIKE...
...THERE IS NOT A THING...
...LEFT FOR ME TO DO.

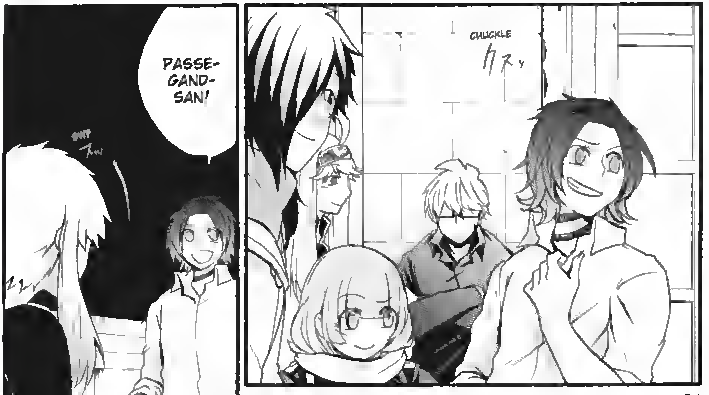

PASSEGAND-S.AN...
GLUMP
ガン…


DON'T TALK TO HER LIKE THAT!
OH, SHUT UP! HOW'M I S'POSED TO TALK TO HER!?
HEY, THAT'S ENOUGH!!
HA! WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? YOU GOT YOUR ASS KICKED ONCE!


I'M GIVING IT TO HER STRAIGHT 'COS OF THIS SITUATION WE'RE IN!
THWAP

I'VE KNOWN YOU A LONG TIME...
...BUT I HAD NO CLUE YOU'D TURNED INTO SUCH A DULL SWORD!
.....
YOU'RE NOT HER "PIKE" ANYMORE 'COS YOU LOST THE WISDOM?
THEN WHAT WERE YOU WHEN YOU SERVED HER BEFORE SHE GOT IT?
OR... WHAT?
ARE YOU SAYIN' YOU'RE NOT YOU IF YOU CAN'T USE THE WISDOM?
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!

THE PASSE-GAND I KNOW...
...ISN'T THE KIND OF FRAGILE PIKE WHO WOULD BREAK OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS!


PASSE-GAND-SAN!
CHUCKLE

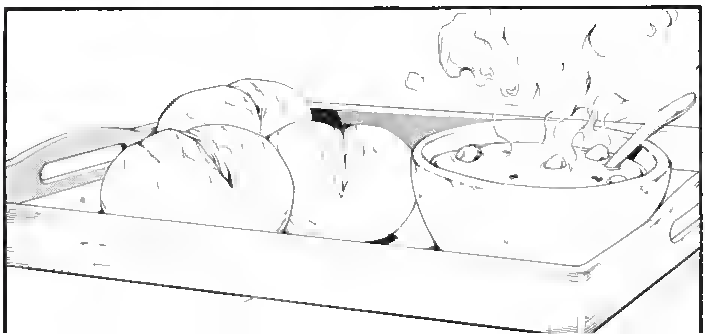
OF COURSE...
GRIN
...WE'LL NEED YOUR HELP TOO, PASSEGAND-SAN!
WE'LL GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THIS WISDOM FOR OUR OWN PURPOSES, BUT I PROMISE WE'LL ALSO RESCUE HER HOLINESS!
RIGHT, IVAN?
YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MANY ALLIES.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE STRONG.
EVERY-ONE...
I SAID SOME SHAMEFUL THINGS THERE MY APOLOGIES.
WELL, AS LONG AS YOU'VE SEEN THE LIGHT...

THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
YOU'LL GET FAT
IDIOT. I'M NOT TALKIN' ABOUT MYSELF.
BONG
BONG
THIS HOUR ALREADY? MEAL TIME...
MEAL TIME?
HUH!? HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
WELL, I'LL LEAVE THE REST HERE TO YOU!
I KNOW THAT CAIN IS KIND AT HEART.
NOT AT ALL.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY BROTHER'S BOORISH BEHAVIOR EARLIER.
?
WHAT'S WITH HIM?

THAT REMINDS ME. CAIN MENTIONED YOU WERE OLD ACQUAINTANCES, PASSEGAND-SAN?
YES.
HER HOLINESS AS WELL...
...AND CARNET, WHOM I IMAGINE HE'S ON HIS WAY TO SEE RIGHT NOW.
CARNET?
YES. THE POPE'S SHIELD.
AH! HE MEANT HER MEAL?
CAIN HAS CARED ABOUT CARNET FOR A LONG TIME.
I UNDER-STAND THAT HE ALWAYS LOOKS AFTER HER...
...AT LEAST WHEN HE'S HERE.

?

.....
HERE!
I BROUGHT
YOUR FOOD.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO GOBBLE IT DOWN. IT'S NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE.
NOM
NOM
OM
KOFF!
KOFF!
SLAP
SLAP
AWW!
WHAT'D I JUST GET DONE SAYIN'?
HA! FOR SOMEONE WHO WOLFS DOWN HER FOOD...
...YOU SURE ARE SKINNY.
GRAB
.....

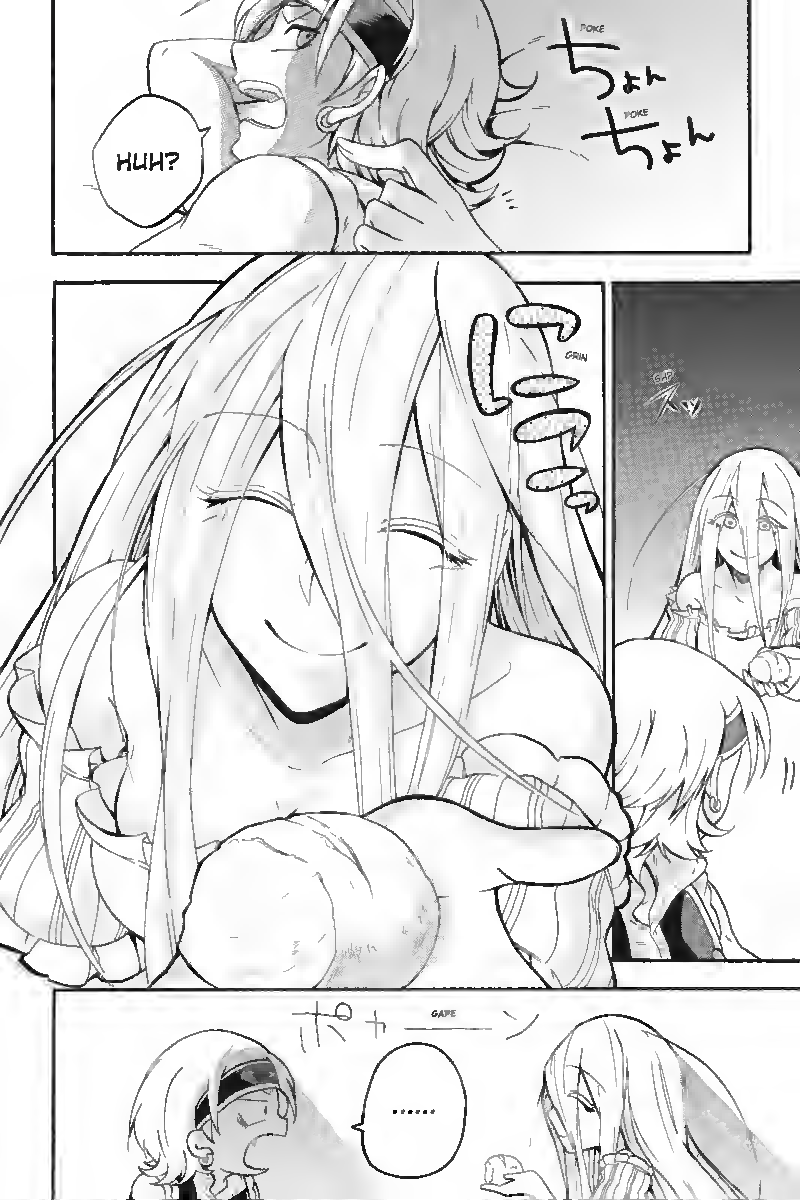
HEY...
...ARE YOU HAPPY RIGHT NOW?
NOM
NOM
NOM

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER THIS...
.....
...BUT I ONCE LOST IT WITH YOU AND SAID, "SELF-SACRIFICIAL THINKING THAT SOMEONE ELSE'S HAPPINESS EQUATES TO YOUR OWN IS JUST EGO!"
AND TO THAT, YOU SAID—

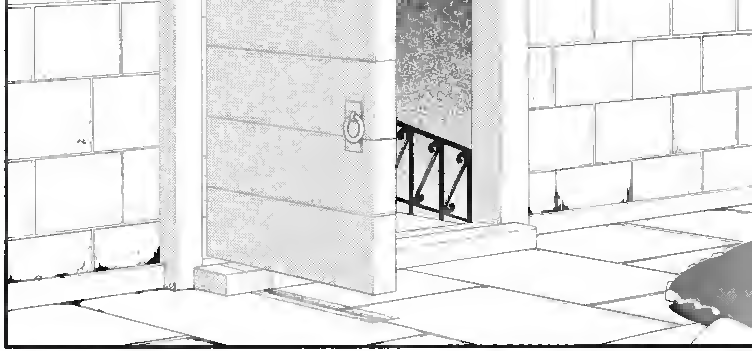
"YOU CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE SOMEONE FOR WHOSE HAPPINESS YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF.
"IF YOU DID HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT, I'M SURE YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND."

FWAP
YOU MUST BE HAPPY THEN, SINCE YOU'VE PROTECTED THE PEOPLE YOU WANTED TO PROTECT FOR THREE YEARS NOW.
AND YOU SURE HAVE SACRIFICED YOURSELF FOR IT.

ROLL
BUT THAT'S WHY I WANNA ASK YOU...
...ARE YOU REALLY HAPPY THIS WAY?
WERE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU HAPPY?
I, FOR ONE...
...DON'T FEEL TOO GOOD ABOUT IT.
.....

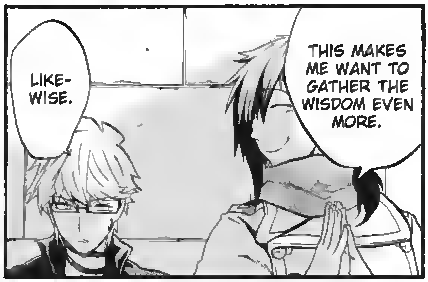

POKE
ちょん
POKE
ちょん
HUH?
GRIN
にたぁ
GAPE
ポカーン
GAPE
ポカーン
.....

HA HA...
NEVER MIND. AND I'LL PASS ON THE HALF-EATEN BISCUIT.
YEEEEAH. THE WAY YOU ARE NOW, YOU DON'T GET A WORD I SAY TO YOU.
?
GRIP
THAT'S RIGHT... I NEED YOU TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS.
SO I SWEAR I'LL SEAL AWAY ALL THE WISDOM
...AND TURN YOU BACK TO NORMAL!



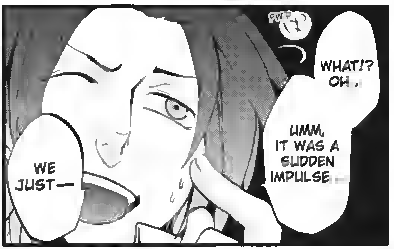
A-HA! SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S ABOUT?
にたにた
OX, I THINK THIS IS YOUR MOST GENUINE SMILE EVER.
RIGHT BACK AT YOU!
GRIN
にたにた
GRIN
FOR REAL

WELL, SHOULD WE SHOVE OFF BEFORE HE FINDS US EAVES-DROPPING?


LIKE-WISE.
THIS MAKES ME WANT TO GATHER THE WISDOM EVEN MORE.

LUMP
!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE !!?

GASP


SWEAT
WHAT!? OH,
UMM, IT WAS A SUDDEN IMPULSE...
WE JUST—

MM?

WHAT!
HEY!! CAIN!!

STEP
YOU'RE THE EMPIRE'S ASSASSIN!
HI!
WHOA, EASY. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE ON HIGH ALERT.
I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING THAT I FAILED TO MENTION EARLIER.
HIS MAJESTY WAS ON THE SCENE THEN TOO, SO WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK.

HA!! I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK WE'LL JUST LET YOU GO HOME AFTER SAYING YOUR PIECE!!
WHAP
HA-HA-HA! WHOOPS.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
I'M NOT HERE TO SEE YOU.
SWF
POINT
IT'S YOU TWO I WANT.
OX AND IVAN.

...HOW DO YOU KNOW OUR NAMES .....?
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
IT'S OBVIOUS...
YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS HAD FAITH IN YOU TWO.
WE'LL HEAR YOU OUT JUST AS SOON AS YOU'RE TIED UP TIGHT!
WE CAN'T RELAX AND HAVE A CHAT LIKE THIS... VERY WELL.
SIGH

GRAB
SLASH
I SUPPOSE...
...I'LL PLAY WITH YOU FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE!

UNKNOWN

Ποσειδῶν

Chapter 16: Believer (Betrayal)

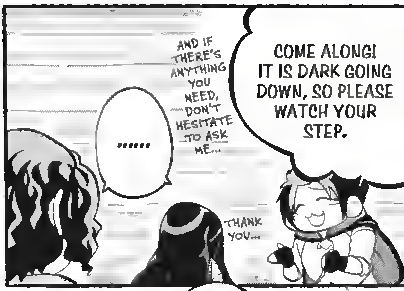
...YOUR HOLINESS.
IS THIS TRULY ALL THE WISDOM YOU HAVE WITH YOU?
SPEAKING HONESTLY WOULD BE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD...
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU ASK, MY ANSWER WILL BE THE SAME. IF YOU DOUBT ME, DO AS YOU WILL.
BRAIN-WASHING AND FORCED SUBMISSION ARE YOUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE, ARE THEY NOT?
.....
THAT IS CERTAINLY TRUE.

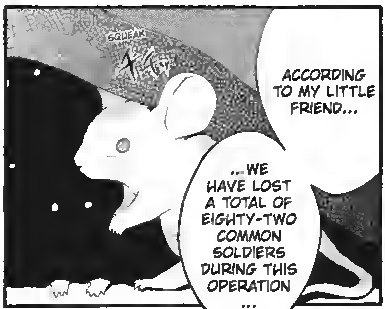
CLENCH
GRAB
UNFORTUNATELY, I'M OUT OF THE NECESSARY FUEL TO USE "FEAST OF THE DRUNKEN GOD, DIONYSUS." BESIDES, EVEN I WOULD RATHER NOT USE THAT ON A WOMAN.
OH PLEASE... DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

MONKEY! ARE YOU THERE?
YOU CALLED !?
FLING
HA! YOU TEST MY NERVES, WOMAN.

LOCK HER UP IN THE DUNGEON!
BUT ESCORT HER PRECIOUS HOLINESS WITH CARE.
UNDER-STOOD, YOUR MAJESTY.
ぺこり

HAAH ...
YOUR MAJESTY!


COME ALONG! IT IS DARK GOING DOWN, SO PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP.
AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK ME...
.....
THANK YOU...


SQUEAK
ACCORDING TO MY LITTLE FRIEND...
...WE HAVE LOST A TOTAL OF EIGHTY-TWO COMMON SOLDIERS DURING THIS OPERATION ...

ETHICA...
YES. I HAVE A REPORT FOR YOU.

...AND SEVEN WISDOM USERS.
OF THEM, THE WHEREABOUTS OF NEGNIS-SAMA AND KINES-SAMA ARE UNKNOWN.
I BELIEVE THEY MAY HAVE FALLEN INTO ENEMY HANDS.
I SEE.
ALSO, I DON'T WISH TO BURDEN YOU WITH MORE BAD NEWS, BUT...
WHAT IS IT?
A SHORT WHILE AGO, YET ANOTHER ADAM WENT MISSING.
ANOTHER ...?

CRASH
SWISH
WHOOSH

CRUMBLE
DAMN!
ABEL-CHAN! LET'S GET YOU OUT-SIDE!!
Y-YES!
PASSE-GAND-SAN, ESCORT THE SHIELD OUT OF HERE TOO!!
UNDER-STOOD!
BY ALL MEANS. IF THIS ISN'T ANY OF YOUR CONCERN, GET OUT.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO YOU.
RIGHT...
...OX AND IVAN?
I'M SICK OF YOU...

...JUST IGNORING MEEE!!!
HA-HA! OH, I DO APOLOGIZE!
BUT YOU WON'T GET THROUGH TO ME WITH A SHODDY ATTACK LIKE THAT!
IS THAT SO?

LEAP
THEN...
...HOW ABOUT THIS!?

"ACHILLES!!"
...TOM-BOY.
HONESTLY.. FOR NOBLE GIRL, YOU CERTAINLY ARE A. .
MILADY!! NOW YOU'RE UPSTAGING ME!?
AND YOU WRECKED THE ROOF!
COULDN'T BE HELPED!

CLANG
OH, THAT'S RIGHT EVEN WITH MY BACK TO THE SKY, I CAN'T BE CARELESS WHEN YOU'RE AROUND
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
DON'T...

...GET...
...COCKY!!!

WHERE'D HE GO THIS TIME?
DAMMIT! HE DISAP-PEARED AGAIN!
!!?
GASP
THE THREE OF YOU ARE SO SERIOUS!
I SAID THIS WAS PLAYTIME, REMEMBER?
OH, DEAR!

WHO IS THAT GUY? IT SOUNDS LIKE HE KNOWS YOU TWO...
WELL, HE WAS .....

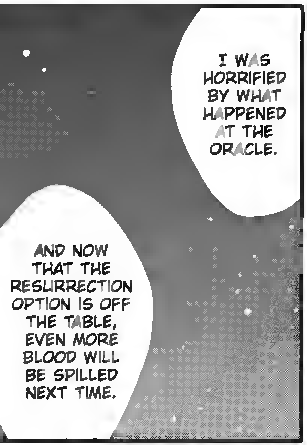
HEY, IVAN-KUN...

...ON THE IBLIS SIDE DURING THE PREVIOUS BATTLE...
...AND I KNOW HE'S AN APPLE WHO CAN TELEPORT...
...BUT THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT.

COME ON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, OX? I'M SURE YOU CAN GET UP HERE.
I'LL MAKE ROOM FOR YOU!
SON OF A...
WAIT, OX! IT COULD BE A TRAP!!
THAT MAY WELL BE...
LEAP
...BUT I'VE STILL GOTTA GO!!
STOMP

FREEZE
!?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOIN'!?
SWISH
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
WHAT AM I DOING?
AS I SAID WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S HEAR IT.
MORE OF A QUESTION, REALLY..... NOT TO PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT...

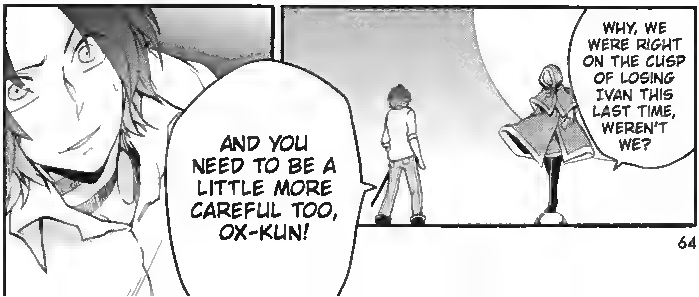
...BUT WHY NOT JOIN THE EMPIRE'S SIDE, OX?


I WAS HORRIFIED BY WHAT HAPPENED AT THE ORACLE.
AND NOW THAT THE RESURRECTION OPTION IS OFF THE TABLE, EVEN MORE BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED NEXT TIME.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT!?
I DON'T WISH TO...
...ENGAGE IN A FUTILE CONFLICT.

IT WAS FINE WHEN YOU OPERATED ON YOUR OWN...
...BUT SIDING WITH THE CHURCH WAS A BAD MOVE.
THAT ATTRACTED OUR MAJESTY'S ATTENTION.

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR FRIENDS...
...BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TWO TO DIE.


WHY, WE WERE RIGHT ON THE CUSP OF LOSING IVAN THIS LAST TIME, WEREN'T WE?
AND YOU NEED TO BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL TOO, OX-KUN!

IF ONE OF YOU IS LOST, THE OTHER'S VESSEL WON'T HOLD...
THOUGH IT WAS ONLY FOR A MOMENT, WHAT YOU TWO SAW WAS TOO MUCH INFORMATION FOR A HUMAN TO KNOW.
YOU SEE, YOU PLUCKED THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT FROM THE TREE BEFORE IT WAS RIPE.

I SEE... YOU DON'T REMEMBER.

HM?
WAIT A SECOND!

...AND YOU'LL BE DEVOURED BY THE SERPENT FORTHWITH.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WISDOM?
.....
BLAST. I WAS HAVING SO MUCH FUN...
...THAT I FEAR I'VE SAID TOO MUCH.
WELL, THE PEONS ARE SCRAMBLING TO GET UP HERE.
...SO PERHAPS I SHOULD TAKE MY LEAVE.

CONSIDERING IT'S YOU TWO, I BELIEVE HE WOULD AGREE IF I PLED YOUR CASE.
I'LL JUST ASK YOU ONCE MORE. OX, WILL YOU AND IVAN COME TO OUR SIDE?
IT'S REALLY NOT A BAD PROPOSITION...
GO TO HELL!!
YOU SERI-OUSLY THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE A SHOT!?
I SHALL RETURN THOUGH, SO THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY TILL THEN.
BUT SO BE IT. I'LL GIVE UP ON YOU FOR TODAY.

SEE YOU AGAIN...
...OX.
GRAB
TAP

OX!
YOU'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE.

WHAT? HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT COMING WITH ME?
WHOOSH
NOT HARDLY!! I JUST HAVE A BUNCH OF QUESTIONS THAT STILL NEED ANSWERS!!
CERTAINLY. BUT I'D LIKE IT TO BE A LEISURELY CONVERSATION IN A GARDEN...
SHHH
...OVER A DELICIOUS PICNIC OF SANDWICHES.
AND PREFERABLY, IVAN WOULD BE WITH US.

WHOOSH
QUIT PLAYIN' AROUND !!!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!? HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT US!?
JUST LIKE YOU TWO USED TO BE.
I'M NOT PLAYING.
I'M ALWAYS SERIOUS. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SERIOUS.
SPIN

YOU AND IVAN WERE ALWAYS SERIOUS... BUT KIND...
FLUTTER
THAT'S WHY YOU DID WHAT YOU DID...
TO CHANGE A SAD WORLD...
WHOOM
...AND...
...TO HELP ME, THE ONE WHO ALWAYS BELIEVED IN YOU.
FLAP

THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN YOU.

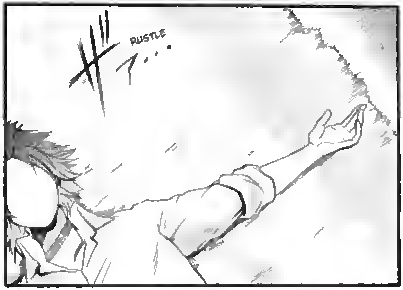
BOTH THEN...
...AND NOW.

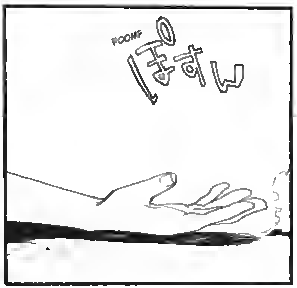
HUH?
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
IT CAN'T BE.
NO.
IT CAN'T BE HIM.

...IVAN AND I, WE...
AFTER ALL...
AHHH, WE'RE ABOUT TO TOUCH DOWN.
THERE IS SO MUCH I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
...BUT SADLY, THIS IS WHERE WE PART WAYS.
SO...
OX, I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN YOU, AND I ALWAYS WILL. NOTHING WILL CHANGE THAT.

LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR SHARED DREAM AGAIN! THE THREE OF US!
...BOTH OF YOU, BE SURE TO STRUGGLE ALONG TO THE END!
GIVE MY REGARDS TO IVAN.
SHF
THIS REALLY IS...
...GOOD-BYE, OX.
FWOO

FLOAT


RUSTLE
ア…


POOMF
ぽすん

I DON'T GET IT... EXPLAIN IT TO ME...
TO BEGIN WITH.....

WHAT THE HELL?

...WEREN'T WE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DEATH?

HE'S JOINING US STARTING TODAY.....
THIS IS YOUR NEW CLASSMATE!
I'M OX.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
EVERYONE BE FRIENDS WITH HIM, ALL RIGHT?
AS FOR YOUR SEAT .....
SENSEI! THE DESK NEXT TO ME IS OPEN.
THEN THAT DECIDES IT! OX, YOU SIT OVER THERE.

THANKS.
NOT AT ALL!
EVER SINCE WE HEARD A NEW KID WAS COMING, IVAN AND I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
OH YEAH, WE SHOULD INTRODUCE OURSELVES TOO.
I'M LAMECH.
NICE TO MEET YOU, OX.

UNKNOWN

Ἀρίων

Chapter 17:
Smiling You and You
(Spilt Milk)

UNKNOWN

I'M LAMECH.
UNLIKE ME, HE LAUGHED A LOT...
NICE TO MEET YOU, OX.
...AND HAD A DAZZLING SMILE.

IVAN AND I WERE WORRIED THAT THE NEW KID MIGHT BE SCARY.
BUT I'M GLAD YOU TURNED OUT TO BE A NICE GUY, OX.
.....
NICE TO MEET YOU.
NERVOUS
H-HEY...
YOU CAN RELAX. DESPITE THE WAY HE LOOKS, HE'S ACTUALLY A CARING KIND OF GUY.
OH, THIS KID WITH THE GLASSES IS IVAN.
ANYWAY, IT SURE IS A WONDERFUL DAY, ISN'T IT?
WE'RE FRIENDS WITH OX...
...AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S IVAN'S BIRTHDAY!
HUH? REALLY!?

RUSTLE
IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF A FAMILY MEMBER, RIGHT?
SEE, EVERYBODY HERE IS FAMILY!
WITH LOTS OF SWEETS!
YEP! AND WE'RE ALL THROWING A PARTY FOR HIM TONIGHT!
EH...?
...OX?
FONT
ON YEAH! WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY..
TUG
I...
I DON'T KNOW ...

GRAB
わしっ
NO PROBLEM!
JOHN!!
YOU SCARED ME!
JOLT
びくっ
.....
THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT IT AT ALL.
THIS PLACE IS FULL OF KIDS LIKE YOU.
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, OX.
AND TO BE HONEST, WHEN YOU WERE BORN ISN'T IMPORTANT ANYWAY.
HA HA HA!
IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, YOU GET TO DECIDE IT FOR YOURSELF!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA!! WE'LL HAVE OX'S WELCOME PARTY THIS EVENING, FOLLOWED BY A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR OX AND IVAN!!
IT'LL BE A GRAND CELEBRATION!
GRIN
ニっ
GLINK
!?

A FIT .....?

IT'S REALLY AWFUL.
YEAH IT ALWAYS GETS BAD WHEN THE WEATHER TURNS COLD.
BUT DON'T WORRY! I JUST NEED TO BE PATIENT UNTIL SPRING COMES!
COUGH

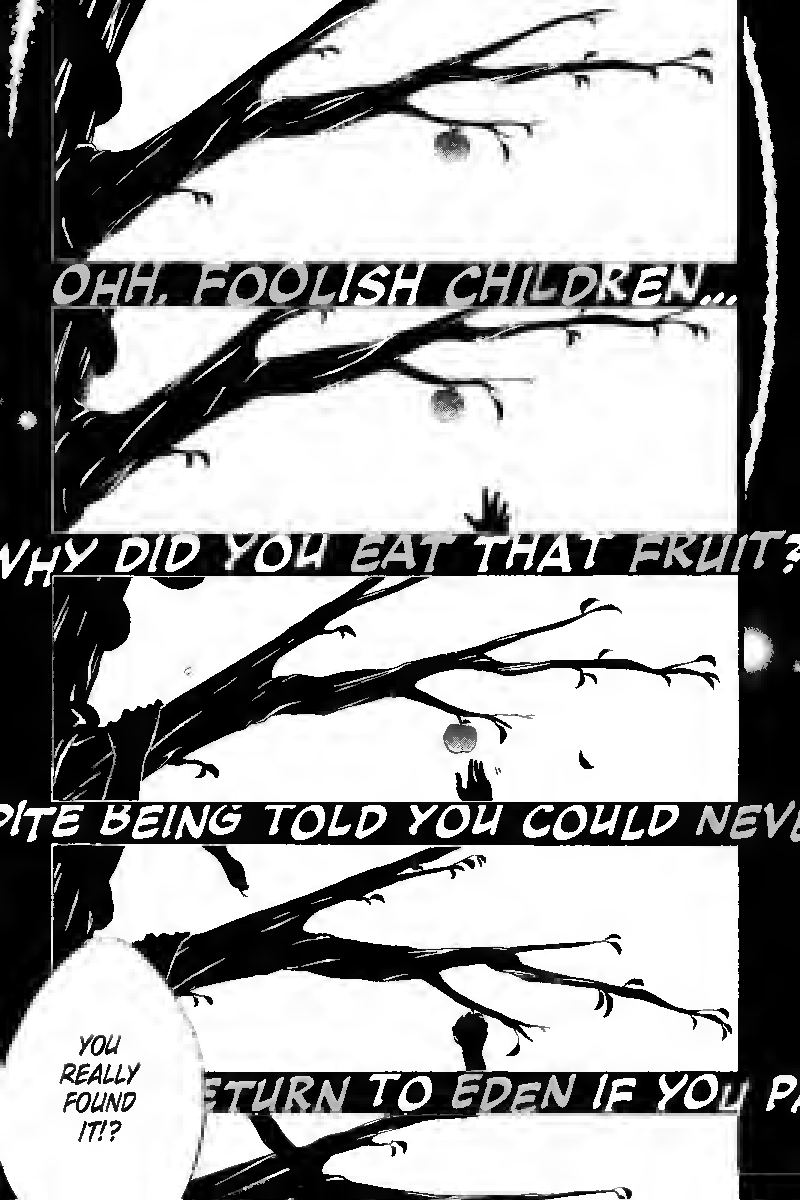
WHY!?
CRACKLE
DIDN'T YOU SAY THE DOCTOR IN TOWN COULD CURE HIM!?
OX, CALM DOWN!
HIS BODY IS BURNED INSIDE AND OUT FROM THE WAR.
THE DOCTOR HAS TRIED EVERYTHING...
...BUT NOTHING HAS WORKED.
.....

SENSEI, YOU'RE AN IDIOT!!
PASH
OX!
THERE'S NO USE TAKING IT OUT ON OUR TEACHER.
OX!
.....
I...
...KNOW THAT ALREADY.

THE WORLD IS FULL OF THINGS THAT NO ONE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT.
HEROES IN FAIRY TALES SUCCEED IN EVERYTHING AND EVEN SAVE THE WORLD.
BUT THAT'S NOT REALITY.
WE CAN FORGET THE WORLD. THE WAY WE ARE NOW, WE CAN'T EVEN SAVE OUR FRIEND.
I THINK EVERYONE'S THE SAME WAY. THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS THAT WE CAN'T DO AND CAN'T UNDERSTAND...
...THAT EVEN WHEN THERE MUST BE A WAY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY, EVEN THOUGH IT'S FRUSTRATING...
...WE NEED TO KEEP STRUGGLING TO DISCOVER A CORRECT METHOD THAT'S STILL UNKNOWN.
A CORRECT METHOD...
...THAT'S STILL UNKNOWN...
WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP.
I'LL FIND A WAY TO SAVE HIM, EVEN IF I HAVE TO RELY ON THE GODS!
UNKNOWN... THE WISDOM OF THE GODS!
YEAH, YOU MAY THINK IT'S DUMB...
...BUT I DON'T INTEND TO JUST STAND BY AND DO NOTHING.

YOU'RE RIGHT...!
THERE MUST STILL BE...
...SOMETHING THAT EVEN WE CAN DO!
ALL RIGHT!
I'M GOING TO INVESTIGATE SOME MORE!
H-HEY!
WAIT FOR ME!
HEY! IVAN!
WAIT UUUP!!


OHH, FOOLISH CHILDREN...
NHY DID YOU EAT THAT FRUIT?
PITE BEING TOLD YOU COULD NEV
ETURN TO EDEN IF YOU P
YOU REALLY FOUND IT!?

THAT'S AMAZING!
YEAH!
I CAN'T GUARANTEE IT, BUT THE BOX SHOULD BE AROUND HERE!!

I SEE...

IF ALL GOES WELL WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND IT TODAY!
SO IVAN AND ME ARE GONNA CHECK IT OUT!

TAKE THIS.

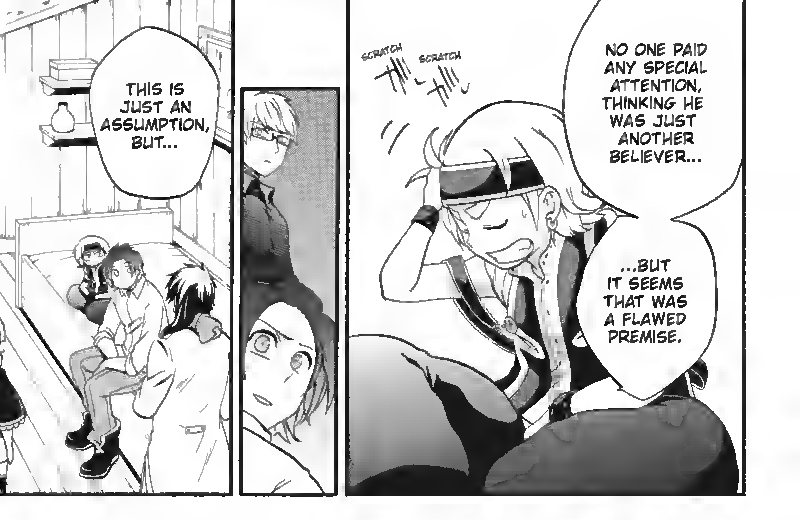
SNAP
OH YEAH. OK...

HUH...? BUT, LAMECH, THIS IS A KEEPSAKE FROM YOUR MOM...
THAT'S WHY! I CAN'T GO ALONG, SO TAKE THAT WITH YOU AS MY STAND-IN.
AFTER ALL, I WANNA BE THERE FOR THE DISCOVERY OF THE CENTURY!
GOTCHA!
SQUEEZE
I PROMISE WE'LL FIND THE WISDOM OF THE GODS AND USE IT TO CURE YOUR ATTACKS...
SO JUST WAIT A LITTLE WHILE LONGER!
SURE, OF COURSE!
I...

...HAVE FAITH IN YOU TWO!
GRUNOA
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START...
WELL.. TO START.....

THOUGH WHEN HE GETS MAD, HE'LL FLICK ME ON THE FOREHEAD, SO HE'S STILL GOT THAT PLAYFUL STREAK.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
I'LL KILL YOU LATER...
DIVINE PUNISHMENT REALLY IS TERRIFYING!
THAT'S YOUR TAKE-AWAY!?
...HOW DID HE GET LIKE THIS!?
FRESH-FACED
IF THAT'S WHAT IVAH USED TO BE LIKE...
WELL, EXCUSE ME...
HOW IS IT HE'S STILL ALIVE? WHY DID HE THROW IN WITH THE EMPIRE ...?
M-MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT'S THAT BOY DOING HERE?
HE'S NOT DEAD?
WHEN IT COMES TO THE BIG STUFF, I'M CLUELESS.
.....
DUNNO.

IT GETS EVEN WORSE, Y'KNOW.
THE GUY WHO FIRST CAME TO THE CHURCH AND TOLD THEM ABOUT THE WISDOM?
HIS NAME WAS LAMECH.
WHA—!?
I DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE MYSELF, SO I CAN'T BE POSITIVE...
...BUT NO WAY IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE, RIGHT?
HE SUDDENLY SHOWED UP HERE TO ANNOUNCE THE EXISTENCE OF THE UNKNOWN...
...AND SAID THAT AS ADVOCATES OF GOD, WE SHOULD BE THE ONES TO POSSESS IT.
HE WAS EVEN GOOD ENOUGH TO BRING ALONG THE SECOND AND THIRD WISDOM.


THIS IS JUST AN ASSUMPTION, BUT...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
NO ONE PAID ANY SPECIAL ATTENTION, THINKING HE WAS JUST ANOTHER BELIEVER...
...BUT IT SEEMS THAT WAS A FLAWED PREMISE.

WHAT ARE YOU GETTIN' AT?
I'M JUST SPECU-LATING...
...WAS ALSO THIS LAMECH ...?
...WHAT IF THE ONE WHO LEAKED THE EXISTENCE OF THE WISDOM TO IBLIS...

...BUT IF IBLIS DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF THE WISDOM, IT'S INEVITABLE THAT THEY WOULD DEVOTE ALL OF THEIR MILITARY POWER TO SEEKING IT OUT FOR THE MIGHT OF THE EMPIRE.
LIKEWISE, ELYSION WOULD USE THE STRENGTH OF THEIR MONKS AND ACOLYTES TO FERRET OUT THE WISDOM SO THEY COULD EXPAND THEIR AUTHORITY.
THINK ABOUT IT.
WHAT FASTER WAY...
...TO GATHER UP ALL OF THE SCATTERED WISDOM?

CERTAINLY, WE'VE BEEN HUNTING AROUND FOR THE WISDOM OURSELVES...
...BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT OUR APPROACH OF RELYING ON WORD OF MOUTH AND GATHERING INFORMATION IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE.
MAYBE...
THAT... UM...
OKAY, SO WE'RE SAYING.. WHAT? THE GUY IS PLAYING THE TWO SIDES OFF EACH OTHER? TO WHAT END?
SINCE HE'S WITH THE EMPIRE NOW, DID HE WANT THEM TO WIN?
...HE DOESN'T CARE WHICH SIDE WINS.
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM .....

...IS THAT ALL OF THE UNKNOWNS ARE COLLECTED IN ONE PLACE.
MOST LIKELY...
.....

EVEN ONE AT A TIME, THEY'RE INCREDIBLE...
...SO IMAGINE ALL OF THEM TOGETHER.
THERE MUST BE SOME MEANING TO GATHERING ALL OF THE WISDOM TOGETHER ...
...AND OX-KUN AND IVAN-KUN HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.
CLUP
OKAY! ENOUGH ARMCHAIR THEORIZING!
WE KNOW THERE'S A LOT WE DON'T KNOW.
BUT WE HAVE OUR OWN REASONS FOR GATHERING UP ALL THE WISDOM...
...SO THIS IS PERFECT!
JUST JAWING ABOUT IT WON'T GET US ANYWHERE!!!

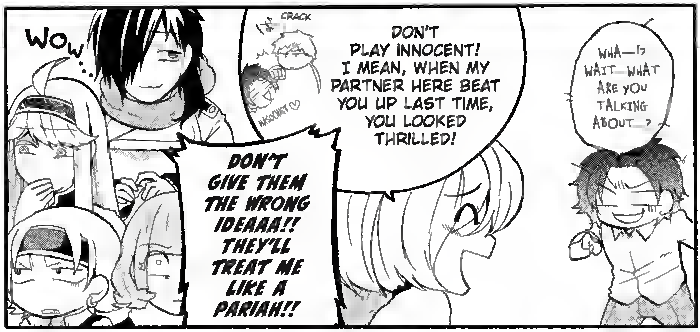
.....
HUH...!? OH.. YES...!
WHY ME..?
I KNOW, RIGHT?
EH-HEHN!
WELL SAID! THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU, MILADY!
BECAUSE IF WE DON'T TRUST HIM, WHO DO WE TRUST?
SET'S RIGHT.
THAT'S ANOTHER REASON TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.
I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT HE'S PLOTTING SOME-THING...
...BUT PRESENT CIRCUM-STANCES MAKE THAT DIFFICULT.

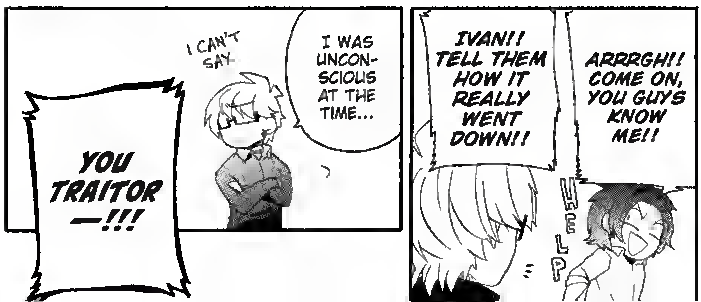
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE THREE OF US NEED TO GET TOGETHER ...
...AND TALK IT OUT TO GET TO THE TRUTH.

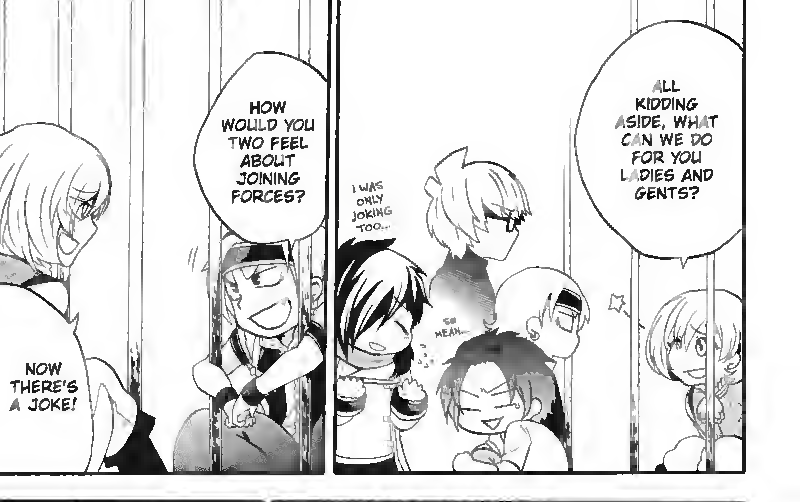
IF WE'RE GONNA KEEP THE MEETING A SECRET FROM THE CHURCH ELDERS, WE WON'T HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THEIR REINFORCE-MENTS
AND JUST THIS HANDFUL OF US CHARGING THROUGH THE PALACE GATES KINDA SEEMS LIKE A TALL ORDER.
HMM...
YEAH, BUT...
WELL.. THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM WITH THAT METHOD...
C'MON! NOW THAT'S SETTLED, LET'S MARCH INTO IBLIS!
...WE DO HAVE ONE LEAD.
JAB
THEM.
CLONK
カッコッ
CLONK
カッコッ

OH?
RAM
WHAAA—!?
HUH? OX, ARE YOU AND IVAN ACQUAINTED WITH THEM?
DON'T MAKE IT SOUND LIKE WE'RE FRIENDS!!
YOU'RE THAT.....
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE THE...

...ULTRA-MASOCHIST!
O!


WOW...
CRACK
NNGHH♡
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT! I MEAN, WHEN MY PARTNER HERE BEAT YOU UP LAST TIME, YOU LOOKED THRILLED!
WHA—!? WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
DON'T GIVE THEM THE WRONG IDEAAA!! THEY'LL TREAT ME LIKE A PARIAH!!


I CAN'T SAY.
I WAS UNCONSCIOUS AT THE TIME...
YOU TRAITOR —!!!
IVAN!! TELL THEM HOW IT REALLY WENT DOWN!!
ARRRGH!! COME ON, YOU GUYS KNOW ME!!
HELP!


HOW WOULD YOU TWO FEEL ABOUT JOINING FORCES?
NOW THERE'S A JOKE!
I WAS ONLY JOKING TOO...
SO MEAN...
ALL KIDDING ASIDE, WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU LADIES AND GENTS?

BUT TO BE HONEST, WE CAN'T BETRAY HIS MAJESTY ANYWAY.
I'M SURE HE'S THROUGH WITH US, BUT WE'VE STILL GOT FAMILY THERE.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT...
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T HELP YOU THERE, SWEETIE.
MY "HELLISH SLEEP, ONEIROS" AND HIS "GOD OF DESTRUCTION" ARE OUT OF COMMISSION.
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING WE CAN DO.

IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU BELIEVE ME OR NOT...
IT CAN'T BE!
!
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF I TOLD YOU THE BOX YOU BROUGHT HOME LAST TIME WAS A FAKE?

RRGH
AND IF THAT HAPPENS, BEING DISGRACED MIGHT BE THE LEAST OF YOUR RELATIVES' WORRIES!
...BUT I THINK IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE GETS WORD TO THE EMPEROR.

HM?
IS THAT TRUE?
...AND THE CURSE OF DIVINE PUNISHMENT WOULD BE BROKEN...SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?
BUT...
PLEASE...
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU HELP US, WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOUR FAMILIES...
HUH? OH... YES...!
THAT'S WHAT THE DIRECTOR SAID...!
I'M ASKING IF IT'S TRUE THAT THE DIVINE PUNISHMENT WILL BE UNDONE.
HUH? WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
ALL RIGHT. WE'RE IN.

I'M ALL FOR IT IF IT MEANS SHE'D TURN BACK INTO A WOMAN.
WHAT, YOU GOT A BAD CASE OF DIVINE PUNISH-MENT OR SOME-THIN'?
NAH, MINE DOESN'T BOTHER ME...
...BUT HERS...
AH!

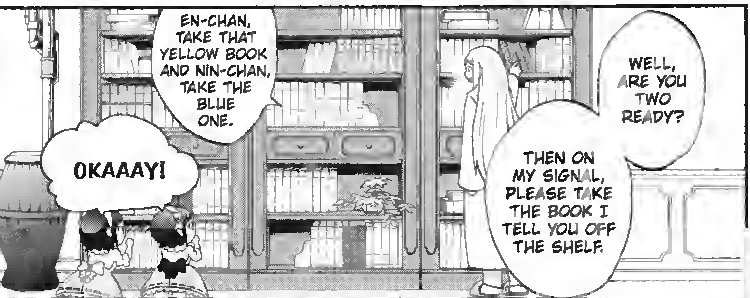
UGH, GEEZ!
HOW RUDE! I'M HAVING A GOOD TIME AS A MAN IN WOMAN'S CLOTHING!!
GET OFF IT!!
HAVING TO LOOK AT HER IN GUY FORM...
IT'S BEEN TOUGH ON ME.

FINE, BUT DON'T BLAME ME IF IT BLOWS UP ON YOU!
YESSS!!
THEN ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS.....
Yes... Yes...
Is that right...?
Yes... Understood... Godspeed.

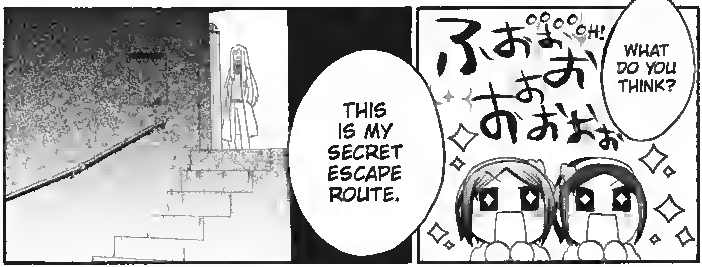
WHEW ...
SENSEI!!! ARE YOU DONE TALKING ON THE PHONE?
YES.
WE'D BETTER GET READY AS WELL.
EN-CHAN, NIN-CHAN, WE'RE GOING ON AN ADVENTURE!!
YAY, ADVEN-TURE!!
LET'S BRING PLENTY OF SWEETS ALONG!
AND YOU MAY EACH TAKE A STUFFED ANIMAL OF YOUR CHOICE!
A STUFFED ANIMAL...
.. TOO?

REALLY?
REALLY-REALLY?
YES, WE MAY BE GONE A WHILE.
IN FACT, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO PARADISE LOST FOR SOME TIME.

.....


EN-CHAN, TAKE THAT YELLOW BOOK AND NIN-CHAN, TAKE THE BLUE ONE.
OKAAAY!
WELL, ARE YOU TWO READY?
THEN ON MY SIGNAL, PLEASE TAKE THE BOOK I TELL YOU OFF THE SHELF.

OPEN...
...SESAME!!
YANK
HERE WE GO! ONE, TWO...
CLUNK
CLACK
カチ
CLACK
カチ
CLACK
カチ
CLACK
カチ

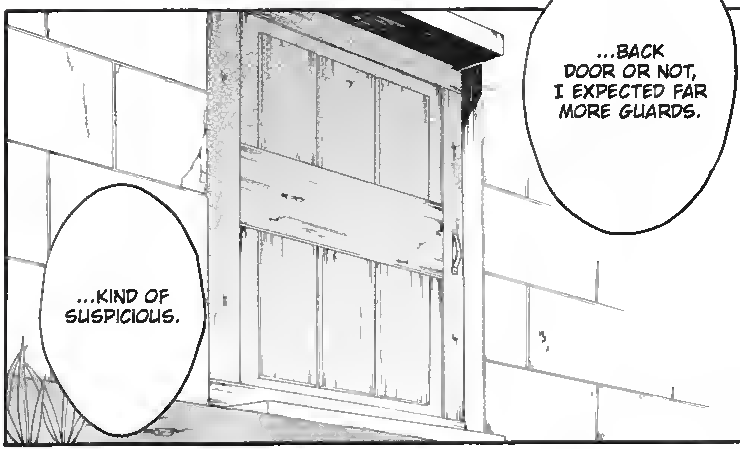

THIS IS MY SECRET ESCAPE ROUTE.
ふおおお

WELL, LET'S BE OFF THEN, SHALL WE?

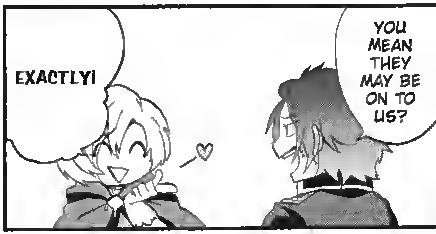
Chapter 18:
See You! (Farewell!)

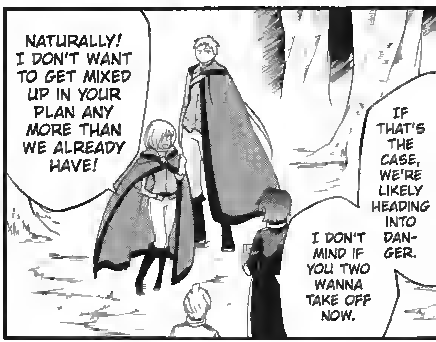
STRAIN
STRAIN
SHEESH YOU'RE PATHETIC
YES..... THOUGH I'M ALREADY EXHAUSTED ...
YOU MADE IT.
OOF ...!
IBLIS!!
GET READY FOR THE REAL FIGHT!

I HAD A BAD FEELING WHEN I HEARD WE WERE GETTING INTO THE TOWN THROUGH THE "BACK WAY"...
...BUT I NEVER IMAGINED WE'D BE CLIMBING UP A SHEER CLIFF.
BUT ALL THREE OF YOU REFUSED!!
OF COURSE!
I'M TOO HEAVY.
THAT'S WHY I OFFERED TO CARRY YOU UP WITH ME!
JOB
WENT UP AND BACK THREE TIMES WITH EACH OF THE GIRLS
WHAT ABOUT THE SENTRIES?
I TOOK THEM OUT WHILE YOU BOYS WERE MAKING THE CLIMB.
BUT STILL...

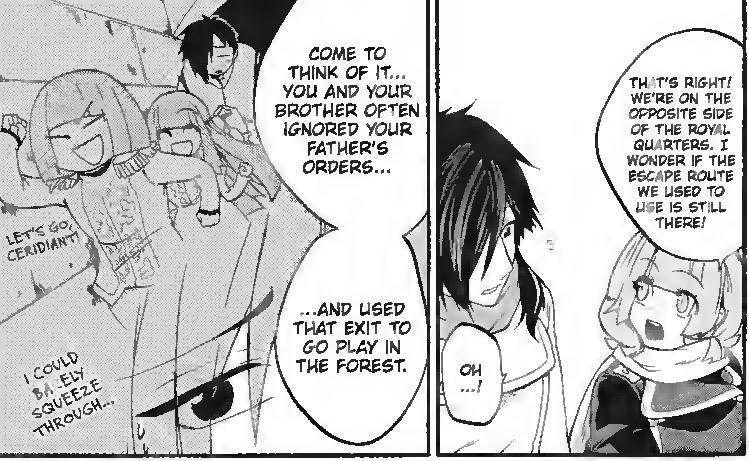

...BACK DOOR OR NOT, I EXPECTED FAR MORE GUARDS.
...KIND OF SUSPICIOUS.

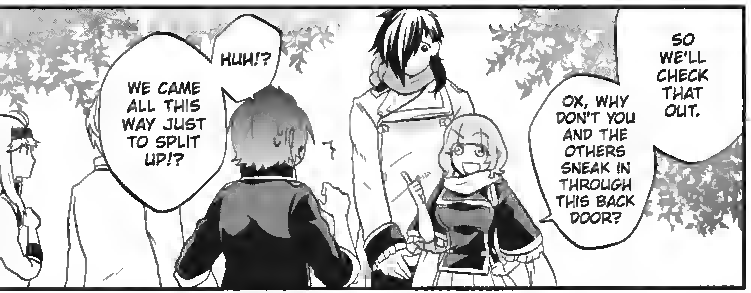
I'LL PRAY FOR YOUR SAFETY FROM THE OUTSIDE.


EXACTLY!
YOU MEAN THEY MAY BE ON TO US?


NATURALLY! I DON'T WANT TO GET MIXED UP IN YOUR PLAN ANY MORE THAN WE ALREADY HAVE!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE'RE LIKELY HEADING INTO DANGER.
I DON'T MIND IF YOU TWO WANNA TAKE OFF NOW.

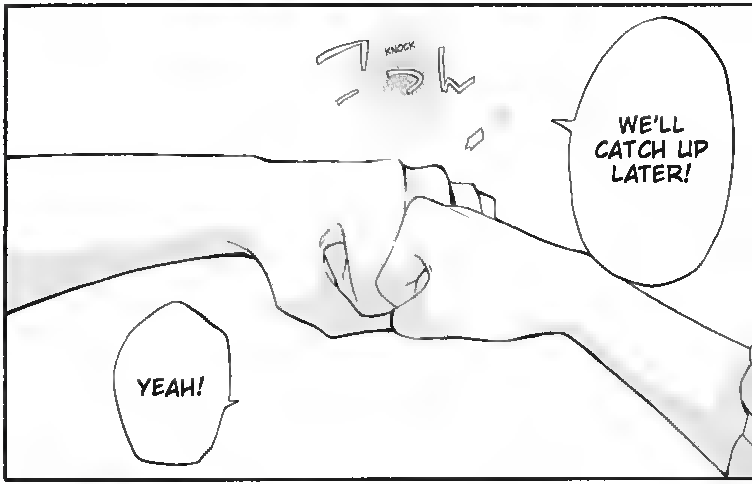
THANKS!

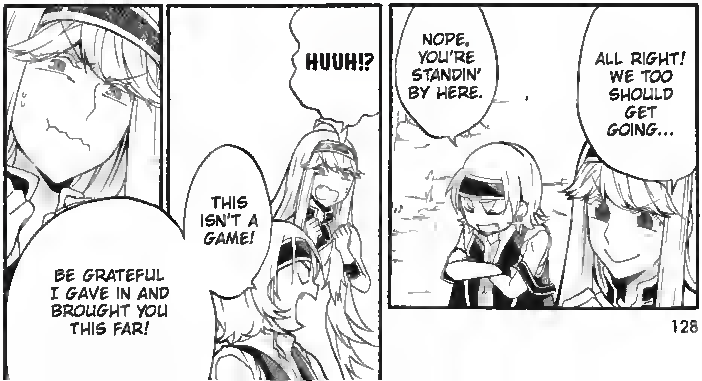

COME TO THINK OF IT... YOU AND YOUR BROTHER OFTEN IGNORED YOUR FATHER'S ORDERS...
...AND USED THAT EXIT TO GO PLAY IN THE FOREST.
LET'S GO, CERIDIAN'T!
I COULD BARELY SQUEEZE THROUGH...
OH...!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROYAL QUARTERS. I WONDER IF THE ESCAPE ROUTE WE USED TO USE IS STILL THERE!


HUH!?
WE CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO SPLIT UP!?
OK, WHY DON'T YOU AND THE OTHERS SNEAK IN THROUGH THIS BACK DOOR?
SO WE'LL CHECK THAT OUT.

GRIN
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SCARED, OK!?
SPLITTING UP GIVES US BETTER ODDS OF FINDING HER HOLINESS, RIGHT!?

I NEED TO FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE.
HA-HA-HA!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A PRINCESS, YOU SO MANLY, SET...
HOW CAN I PUT THIS?


KNOCK
コンコン
WE'LL CATCH UP LATER!
YEAH!


BE GRATEFUL I GAVE IN AND BROUGHT YOU THIS FAR!
THIS ISN'T A GAME!
HUUH!?
NOPE. YOU'RE STANDIN' BY HERE.
ALL RIGHT! WE TOO SHOULD GET GOING...

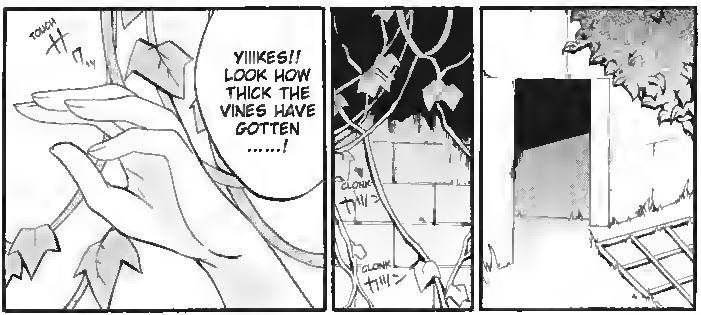
SO WE'LL SPLIT UP INTO TWO GROUPS, BUT IF THINGS GET HAIRY, GET OUT AND COME BACK HERE. LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY!
GOT IT?
ROGER!
HMPH .....
I'LL COME FOR YOU IF IT'S SAFE, BUT IN THE MEANTIME, BE A GOOD GIRL AND WAIT HERE.
WELL, WE'LL SEE YOU LATER!

RUSTLE
I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO BE THAT SIMPLE.
FORGET IT!! WE'RE GETTING OUTTA HERE.....
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS GIRL!?
WAIT A SECOND!

OH MY! ♪ IF IT ISN'T ORIM!
YOU LOOK LIKE DEATH WARMED OVER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD COME OUT HERE IN THAT CONDITION AND TRAP US OR SOMETHING?
I AM HONORED BY YOUR CONCERN, THOUGH IT ISN'T WARRANTED.

PLEASE, YOUR FACE IS FUNNY ENOUGH!
PFFT! YOU CRACK ME UP!
EVEN A DODDERING OLD MAN WOULD BE ABLE TO EASILY DISPATCH...
...TWO TRAITORS WHO LACK WISDOM.

EVEN WITHOUT WISDOM...
GRUN
STEP
...WE'RE PRETTY STRONG, YOU KNOW.


TOUCH
YIIIKES!! LOOK HOW THICK THE VINES HAVE GOTTEN .....!
CLONK
CLONK

SLASH
SLASH
MY BROTHER WOULD ALWAYS CHOP THE VINES UP IN DISGUST, REMEMBER?
DON'T U DARE BRUSH AGAINST MY NECK!
HA-HA-HA... YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'D BE TROUBLE FOR US IF THEY DID...
THEY'RE AFTER US...
NO ONE ELSE USES THIS PASSAGE, HUH!?
SWISH
EEEEK!
SET!?
THE TRUTH IS, HE WAS ALL BLUSTER...
THUDUMP THUDUMP
A RAT...
SQUEAK
WHAT THE HECK? DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!

PLEASE FORGIVE MY FRIEND FOR TROUBLING YOU.

LEAP
JUMP
EEEEK!!

!!
SPLISH
SPLISH

SET!!

CRACK
ガン
HUH ...!?

ドン
BAM
WHAT IS THIS!?

MY FRIEND INFORMED ME THAT HE ONCE SAW SOMEONE WHO SEEMED LIKE A PRINCESS ESCAPING THROUGH HERE...
...AND IT SEEMS HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH.
!
WHO ARE YOU!?
AND BEING A SOLDIER, I MUST FULFILL MY DUTIES...
CREEP
スッ
OH, I'M JUST A HUMBLE SOLDIER.
GRIN
LIKE YOU, I'VE PLEDGED MY ALLEGIANCE TO A MASTER.

DAMN.
...IN THE REVERED NAME OF HIS MAJESTY!
STEP
NOW THEN, PLEASE DRAW YOUR WEAPON, EXILED SWORDSMAN.
I WISH TO...
CHUCKLE
...SPAR WITH YOU!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
GOOD GRIEF!
OWWW..
WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE —!
I WAS WONDERING WHO HAD FALLEN DOWN HERE.
WELL, WELL.
CLICK
カ

ARGANBONE!!
THE PRINCESS, I PRESUME?
HA-HA-HA! YOU'RE NOT HAPPY TO SEE ME.
OF COURSE, YOUR ANGER AT ME...
...MEANS NOTHING NOW.
THIS IS PERFECT.
I'LL TAKE THIS AS...
...AN OPPOR-TUNITY —!
DASH

OH, HIGH-SPIRITED, AREN'T WE!?
CLANG
WHAP
UGH!
WH-
HONESTLY, THERE'S NO POINT. I RECOMMEND YOU STAY DOWN.
BUT IF YOU INSIST ON GETTING REVENGE, I WILL ACCEPT THE CHAL-LENGE.

SCRAPE
THAT SHOWS YOU HOW GENER-OUS I AM.
SMIRK
WHOOM
WHIP
"ACHILLES" IS GOOD FOR JUST ONE SHOT...
SO I HAVE TO NAIL HIM DIRECTLY, NOT HIS SWORD ...!
HFF!
HFF!
I WISH I COULD SAY THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD WORKOUT...
WHAT'S WRONG? TIRED ALREADY?
THAT WAS FAST.

RRGH!
FREEZE
...BUT SADLY, I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED IN BRATS.
THIS VILE BASTARD...
THIS BASTARD...

...TOOK EVERY-THING FROM ME!!!
TO BEGIN WITH, YOUR ATTACK WOULDN'T SO MUCH AS HAVE SCRATCHED ME...
...BUT CRYING WHILE FIGHTING ENSURED YOU WOULD NEVER CONNECT.
IS YOUR HEART EVEN IN THIS?
WHUMP

YANK
AUGH...
MEN ARE TURNED OFF BY HYSTERICAL WOMEN, YOU KNOW.
IN TRUTH, THEY SPOIL THE FUN.
JINGLE
DID YOU THINK YOUR TEARS WOULD HELP YOU IN SOME WAY?
THOUGH...
...I SUPPOSE THEY BEFIT A TRAGIC PRINCESS.
AGH!
HFF!

CLICK

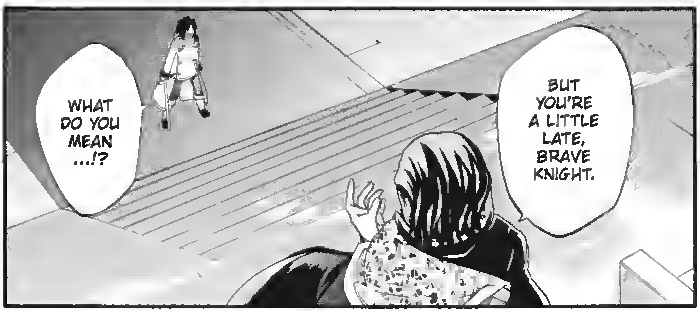
SET...
WHERE DID YOU GO...?

DRAG
HFF ...!
HFF ...!

MM?
OH, IT'S YOU.

ARGANBONE ...!

GLARE
...THEN I SUPPOSE ETHICA FAILED. SERVES HER RIGHT.
IF YOU'RE HERE...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...!?
BUT YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE, BRAVE KNIGHT.

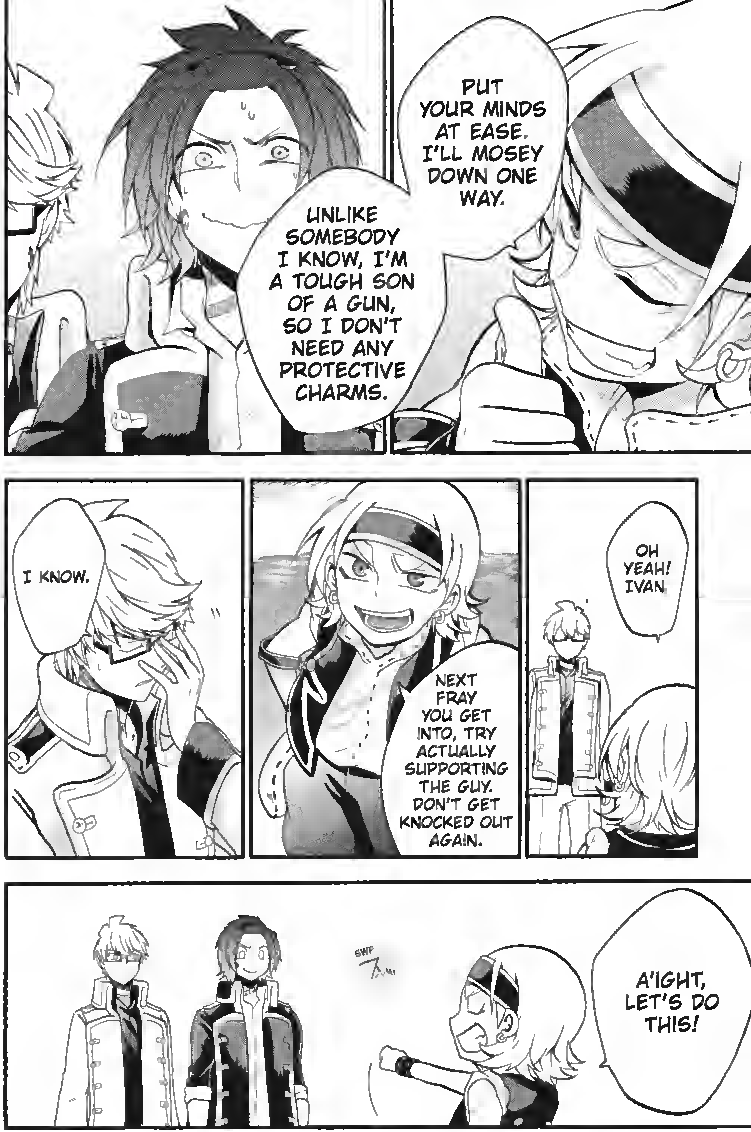
KICK
HERE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC. YOU CAN HAVE HER BACK.
TINKLE
SET—
WHERE IS CERIDIANT-SAMA'?!

ALL YOURS!
WHAT?
THUMP
THUD
WHAM!
CRACK
ROLL
YOUR PRINCESS.

AH ...! NGH ...!
... HAH ...!
AAH ...!
AH!
...I'M SORRY, SET.....
I WAS...TOO SLOW AS ALWAYS ...
IT HURT, DIDN'T IT...?
I'M SORRY...
UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WATCH ANY MORE OF THIS WEEPY STORY.
SO IF YOU WOULD JUST HAND OVER THE WISDOM ...?
OH, DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN YOUR LADY LOVE MOMENTARILY.
KACHIK
DIE

SNEER
PREPARE TO DIE, ARGAN-BONE!!!

TINGLE
WHAT IS IT?
I JUST FELT...
NEVER MIND... PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGINATION.
THEN KEEP IT IN CHECK.
HUH!?
BICKER
BICKER
OH!
LOOK, YOU GUYS.
ANOTHER FORK IN THE ROAD.
OKAY, WHICHEVER WAY THIS SWORD FALLS...
HUH!? WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
DID YOU EVEN LISTEN TO WHAT SET SAID, BIRD'S NEST-HEAD?
CAIN, I THINK BIRDS WOULD BE OFFENDED...
WHAT'S THAT, RUNT!?
SHUT UP, IVAN —!!!


PUT YOUR MINDS AT EASE. I'LL MOSEY DOWN ONE WAY.
UNLIKE SOMEBODY I KNOW, I'M A TOUGH SON OF A GUN, SO I DON'T NEED ANY PROTECTIVE CHARMS.
I KNOW.
NEXT FRAY YOU GET INTO, TRY ACTUALLY SUPPORTING THE GUY. DON'T GET KNOCKED OUT AGAIN.
OH YEAH! IVAN.
SWP
A'IGHT, LET'S DO THIS!

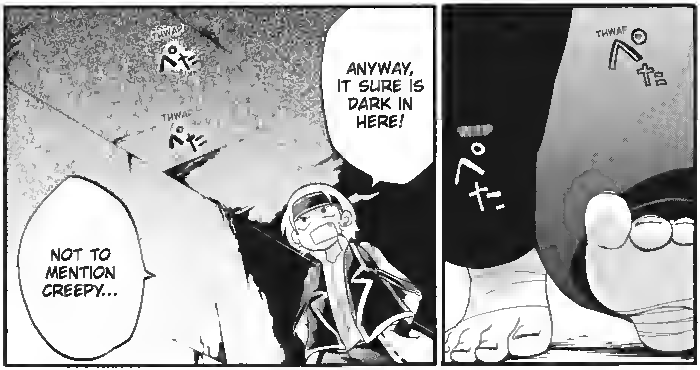
CATCH YA LATER.
YEAH!
KONK
コつん

SEE YA!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
.....

IT'S JUST...
...IT WAS NICE BEING TOGETHER AS A GROUP...
...SO BEING APART FOR A WHILE...

CAIN IS STRONG. STRONGER THAN YOU, AT LEAST.
ARRRGH!! YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP TELLIN' ME THAT! I KNOW!!

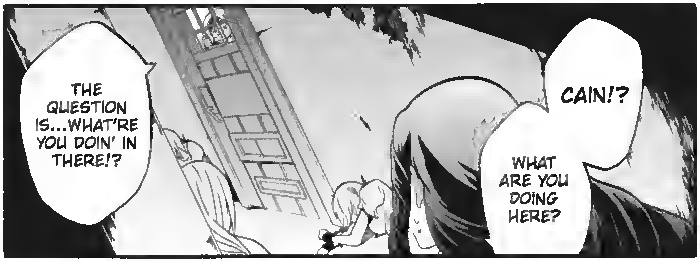
...MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE LONELY.
CLENCH

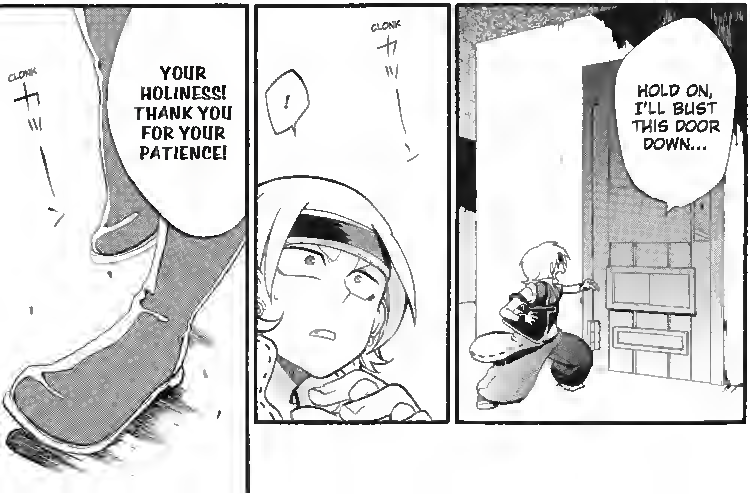

THWAP
THWAP
NOT TO MENTION CREEPY...
ANYWAY, IT SURE IS DARK IN HERE!
THWAP

HM?

ONLY THIS ROOM HAS A STEEL DOOR .....?
OOF!
HUH?
ALMOST THERE!
WHA —!?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!!?

THE POPE!!
!!
WHAT ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE—
HRN!?

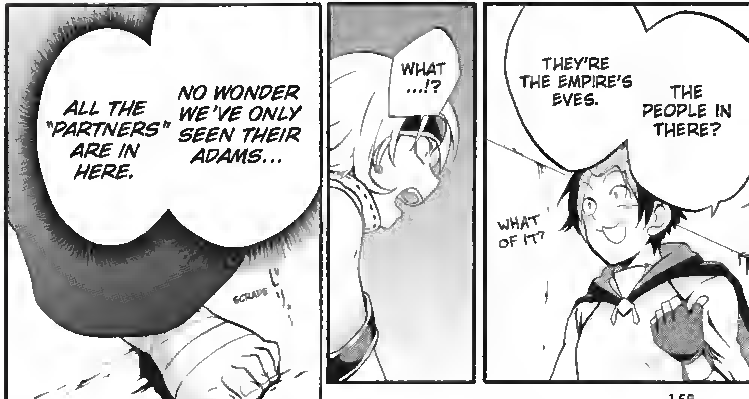

THE QUESTION IS...WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' IN THERE!?
CAIN!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


CLONK
YOUR HOLINESS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!
CLONK
!
HOLD ON, I'LL BUST THIS DOOR DOWN...

SPLISH
SPLISH
HIM ...!
THIS SILLY MONKEY HAS BROUGHT YOUR DINNER!
IT'S FISH TODAYYY!
THE EMPEROR'S LACKEY WHO BEAT PASSE-GAND...
MM ...?
JINGLE
THE KEY!!
SNEAK
IF I CAN TAKE THAT FROM HIM, I CAN GET THE POPE OUTTA THERE...
ALL RIGHT!

WHOA!
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
WHAM!
HUH!?
ARE YOU FOR REAL? 0°
TMP
PHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD JOLT LIKE THAT IN A WHILE...
YOU'RE...

HEY, YOU!!
WHAT'RE THOSE PEOPLE IN THERE FOR!?
GRN
...PRETTY GOOD AT YOUR JOB, HUH?
TCH


ALL THE "PARTNERS" ARE IN HERE.
NO WONDER WE'VE ONLY SEEN THEIR ADAMS...
GULP
WHAT ...!?
THEY'RE THE EMPIRE'S EVES.
THE PEOPLE IN THERE?
WHAT OF IT?

SEE, IF THE KEEPERS GO OUT ONTO THE BATTLE-FIELD...
...THEIR WISDOM CAN BE TAKEN AWAY.
SO WE STASH THEM IN HERE, AND THE USERS ONLY VISIT TO GET PERMISSION.
THAT WAY, IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, WE CAN ALWAYS BRING IN A REPLACEMENT! HIS MAJESTY IS A GENIUS!
THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING THE BONUS INFO.
TUG
HUH!?
MAYBE I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU THAT!?
DANG IT! I'M GONNA BE IN TROUBLE AGAIN!
NO, WAIT!

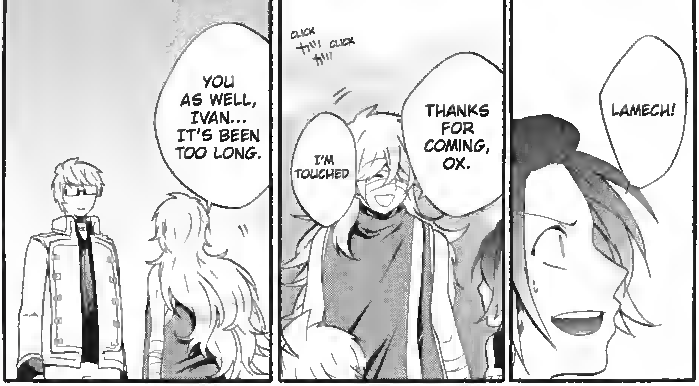
HUH. THAT'S SOME PLAN. EXCEPT...
I'LL BE SAFE!!
FINISH
IF I RUB YOU OUT HERE, PROBLEM SOLVED!
!
...THIS IS A NARROW PASSAGE.
I THINK YOUR WEAPON'S A LITTLE TOO UNWIELDY HERE.
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR!!
THUD
HMM... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE RIGHT.

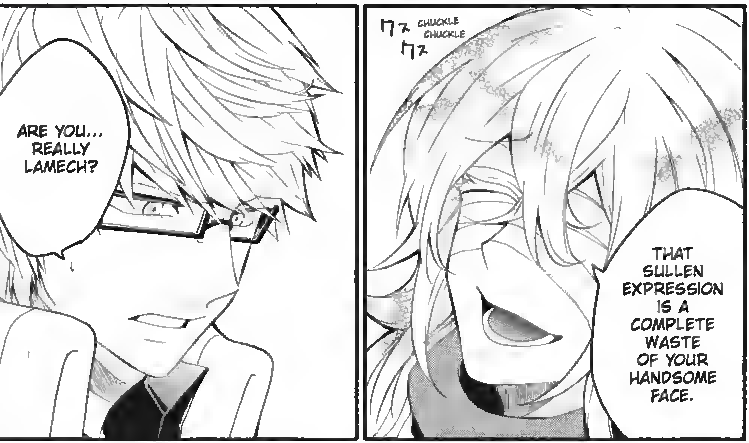
CLATTER
THIS TIME...
HM!? I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO CAN USE WISDOM!
...I WON'T FORGET TO USE THE WISDOM!
INHALE
IN THAT CASE, I WON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK.

UNKNOWN NUMBER ONE...
"ABSOLUTE GOD KING, ZEUS!"
!!?
トン
TAP
ﾋｭｯ
RNIP

WHOA!
FWUMP
HEY, YOU GET THE FEELING THEY DON'T THINK MUCH OF US!?
THESE GUYS ARE ALL BENCH-WARMERS!
.....
A SMALL NUMBER OF SOLDIERS, STATIONED AT DIFFERENT POINTS...
LIKE SWEETS THAT LEAD THE WAY TO THE WITCH'S HOUSE.
YEAH, THAT'S TOTALLY WHAT IT FEELS LIKE!
IF HIS OBJECTIVE IS GATHERING THE WISDOM...
...RATHER THAN HIDING FROM US...
...IT'S EASIER TO HAVE US COME TO HIM.
RUSTLE
CLUNK

MAN, THIS PLACE IS HUGE.....
!
CLICK
YOU MADE IT HERE SAFELY.
GREAT!


YOU AS WELL, IVAN... IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.
CLICK
CLICK
I'M TOUCHED
THANKS FOR COMING, OX.
LAMECH!


ARE YOU... REALLY LAMECH?
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
THAT SULLEN EXPRESSION IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF YOUR HANDSOME FACE.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT THE THREE OF US ARE TOGETHER AGAIN!
DOES IT MATTER AT THIS POINT?
CHUCKLE

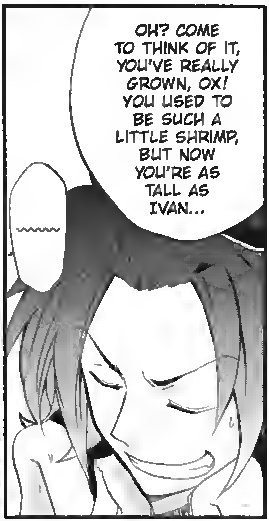
FREEZE
I'D NEVER DO THAT TO A DEAR FRIEND.
DON'T WORRY.
I WON'T SLIT YOUR THROAT TO STEAL THE WISDOM SECRETED INSIDE
SWIP

"THAT'S RIGHT" .....?
BEAM
THAT'S RIGHT!

ISN'T IT YOUR GOAL TO GATHER ALL THE WISDOM?

HEY!
DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'LL JUST HAND OVER OUR WISDOM TO YOU!?
AS IF! GIMME SOME CREDIT!
I REMEMBER HOW STUBBORN IVAN IS!

GRAB
ENOUGH BEATING AROUND THE BUSH! ANSWER ME!!


OH? COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'VE REALLY GROWN, OX! YOU USED TO BE SUCH A LITTLE SHRIMP, BUT NOW YOU'RE AS TALL AS IVAN...
~~~~~

I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU JUST THROWING IN WITH THE EMPIRE GOONS TO GATHER WISDOM BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME EXPLANATION, RIGHT? LIKE, YOU'RE UNDER ORDERS OR...
~~~~~

I'VE VOLUNTEERED FOR THE MOST VILLAINOUS DUTIES.
I'VE STOPPED AT NOTHING TO COLLECT THE WISDOM.
I'M SORRY TO SAY YOU'RE WRONG.

THAT WAS OUR DREAM, REMEMBER?
AND AFTER YOU FOUND THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE! THE MEANS TO CHANGE THE WORLD!
IN FACT, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU TWO ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THE WISDOM.

BUT THE RESULTS WEREN'T WHAT WE ANTICIPATED. THE WISDOM ONLY BROUGHT MISERY AND SUFFERING TO EVEN MORE PEOPLE.
...WHEN WE OPENED THE BOX, WE WERE DREAMING OF CHANGING OUR WAR-TORN WORLD.
TRUE...

THAT'S WHY WE FEEL RESPON-SIBLE...
...FOR PUTTING THE WORLD BACK THE WAY IT WAS.
OH. THEN YOU DO UNDERSTAND.
YOU'RE RIGHT, OX.
GETTING RID OF THE WISDOM WOULD PUT THE WORLD BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS.
SHHP
BUT THAT'S ALL!

THE WORLD THAT WE WANTED TO CHANGE WOULD RETURN.
IT WOULDN'T SOLVE ANYTHING! WE'D BE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED!!
IT'S NOT ENOUGH!
BUT IT'S WORSE THIS WAY!!
WE SHOULD CHANGE THE WORLD THROUGH THE POWER OF MAN INSTEAD OF RELYING ON GODS!!
NO...
OX, IVAN... WOULD YOU BE OKAY WITH THAT?

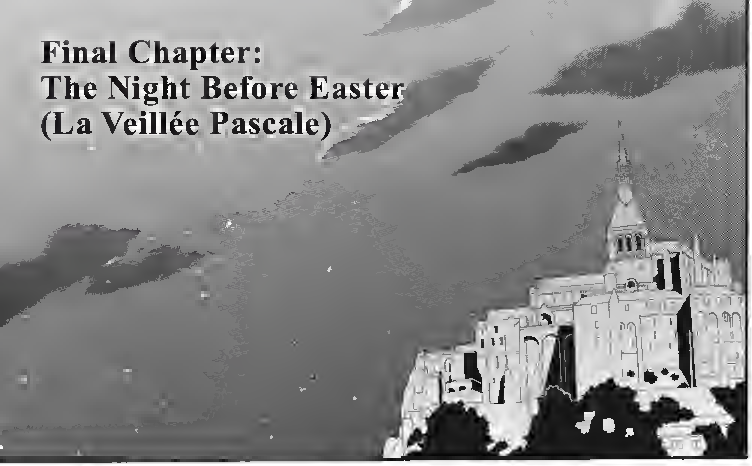
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
IF IT WAS OTHERWISE, THE WORLD WOULD'VE BEEN CHANGED LONG AGO.
I'M SURE YOU GUYS HAVE ALREADY REALIZED...
...THAT LIFE ISN'T LIKE A FAIRY TALE.
IN REALITY, THERE'S SO MUCH MORE THAT WE CAN'T DO A DAMNED THING ABOUT.
BUT...
...BETWEEN YOU TWO AND THE WISDOM OF THE GODS, CHANGING THE WORLD BECOMES A POSSIBILITY!!
!?

JUST NOW...
...YOU ASKED ME WHETHER IT WAS MY GOAL TO GATHER ALL THE WISDOM.
I ANSWERED "YES," BUT I ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF STEALING IVAN'S WISDOM.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY?
DON'T TELL ME...
YOU GOT IT! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY PLAN...
...TO GIVE YOU TWO ALL THE WISDOM!

AND, OF COURSE, IT'S NOT SO YOU CAN DESTROY IT!
THE WISDOM OF THE GODS WAS MEANT TO BE IN YOUR HANDS!
DO YOU...
...STILL THINK THAT YOU FOUND IT BY CHANCE?
"MEANT TO BE" ...?
YOU TWO OPENING THE BOX THAT DAY...
...AND ME FINDING OUT ABOUT ITS EXISTENCE IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...WAS INEVITA-BLE.

FROM THE BEGINNING, YOU TWO...
...WERE CHOSEN TO BECOME ALMIGHTY!!

Final Chapter: The Night Before Easter (La Veillée Pascale)



COME, EMPIRE SOLDIERS! COME AND PAY THE PRICE FOR MAKING LIGHT OF US!!
...THE POPE'S PIKE WON'T ALLOW YOU TO SET ONE FOOT IN OUR HOUSE!!

EVERY-
ONE...
PLEASE
BE SAFE
...!

WHACK

I JUST TOOK THAT LIGHT BACK FROM YOU.
SO THE LIGHT'S GONE OUT OF YOUR EYE.
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!

ON THE FIRST DAY OF CREATION...
THUD
...GOD CREATED LIGHT AMID THE DARK-NESS.

TCH
SO WHAT !!!?
TMP
GRIN
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!!
ON THE SECOND DAY...
SST
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SWISH

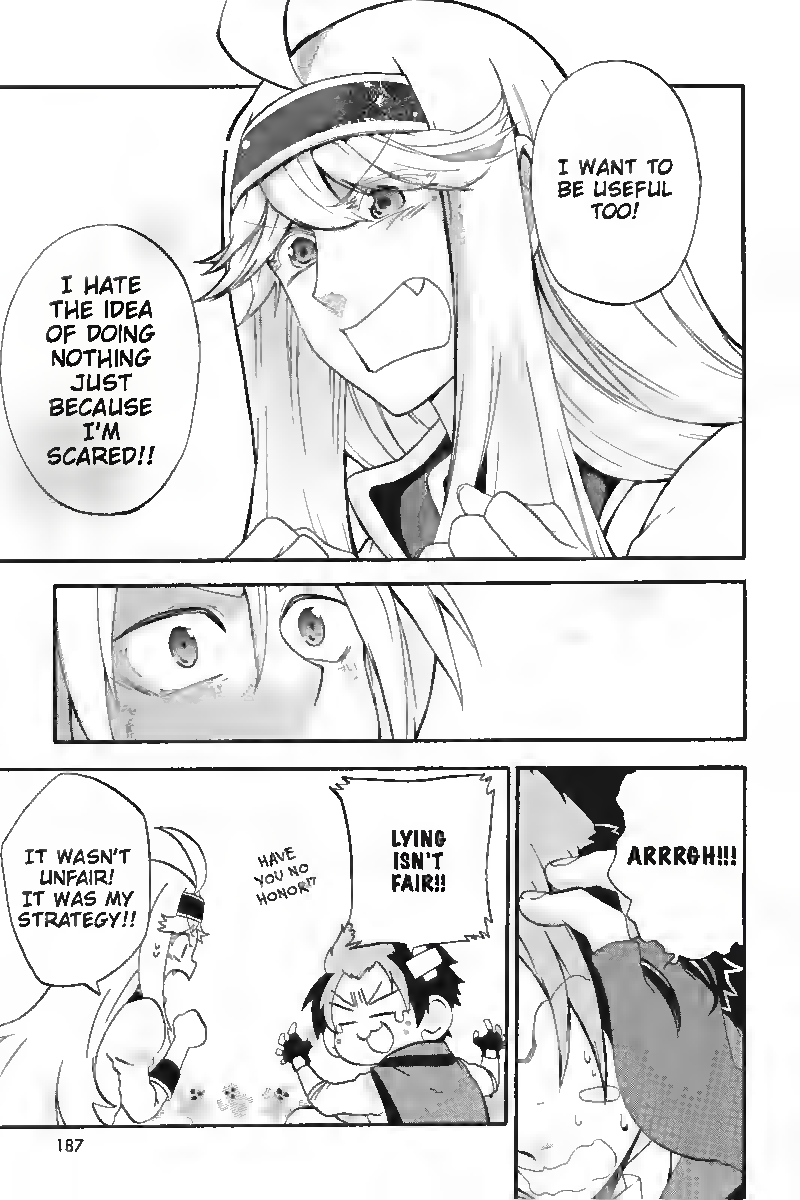
...GOD CREATED THE SKY.
WHIMP
ON THE THIRD DAY, GOD CREATED LAND.
THE SEA WAS BORN, AND PLANTS SPROUTED ON LAND.

AND ON THE FOURTH DAY...
...GOD CREATED THE SUN...
GO TO HELL!!
HACK
THERE'S SOMEBODY I GOTTA SAVE, NO MATTER WHAT...
...SO I'LL BE DAMNED IF I DIE HERE!!
!
JINGLE

STOMP
I'M IN THE SAME BOAT.
TOO BAD.
SWIP
SWISH
STOMP
I'M DOIN' THIS FOR SOMEBODY WHO'S DEAR TO ME...
GAH!
CRACK
...FOR THE ONE WHO RECOGNIZED MY WORTH FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.....
CRACK
...AND I'M GONNA LIVE UP TO HIS EXPECTATIONS, NO MATTER WHAT!

TANGLE
GOOD-BYE...
...MY LITTLE FRIEND.
AH!
WHERE—!?
HUH!? NO WAY!
IT'S HIS MAJESTY!!

WHUMP
WHA—!?
BLINK
BLINK
ABEL!?
COME ON, EVERYONE! HURRY!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE!? I TOLD YOU TO WAIT FOR ME!!!
FORGET IT!!


I WANT TO BE USEFUL TOO!
I HATE THE IDEA OF DOING NOTHING JUST BECAUSE I'M SCARED!!
ARRRGH!!!
LYING ISN'T FAIR!!
HAVE YOU NO HONOR?
IT WASN'T UNFAIR! IT WAS MY STRATEGY!!

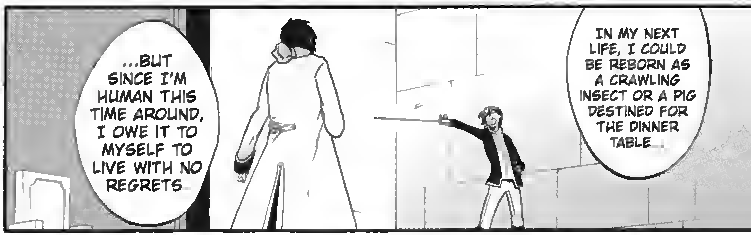
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW, EVERYONE! THE EVES AMONG YOU, PLEASE RESCIND YOUR PERMISSION!
THAT WAY, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO USE WISDOM!
TWITCH
THEY USED US LIKE SLAVES!
SO NOW LET'S BEAT THE HELL OUT OF THAT TIN-POT TYRANT AND HIS MINIONS!
HUH?
WHA?
OUCH

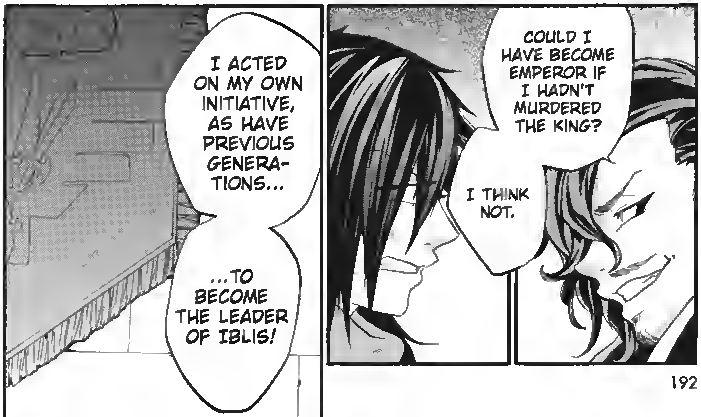
HMPH.
LOOKS LIKE NEITHER ONE OF US IS GONNA BUDGE, SO THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO.
GRUH
NOBODY TALKS ABOUT HIS MAJESTY LIKE THAT.
ONE MORE TIME...
TWHAP
TWHAP
...FOR THE SAKE OF THE PERSON WE EACH HOLD DEAR...
I COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER MYSELF!
...LET'S RUMBLE!

KILL
STOMP
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLINK
SWISH

YOU'RE CERTAINLY HOT UNDER THE COLLAR.
WAS YOUR FLIGHT WITH THE PRINCESS REALLY THAT ENJOYABLE?
CLANG
CLANG
THE ANSWER'S SIMPLE!
GRIN
ARGANBONE... HOW CAN YOU BE SO NON-CHALANT...
...ABOUT COMMITTING ATROCITIES!?
GRIT

IT'S ALL FOR MY DREAM.
THAT HAS A NICE RING TO IT, DOESN'T IT?


IN MY NEXT LIFE, I COULD BE REBORN AS A CRAWLING INSECT OR A PIG DESTINED FOR THE DINNER TABLE...
...BUT SINCE I'M HUMAN THIS TIME AROUND, I OWE IT TO MYSELF TO LIVE WITH NO REGRETS


COULD I HAVE BECOME EMPEROR IF I HADN'T MURDERED THE KING?
I THINK NOT.
I ACTED ON MY OWN INITIATIVE, AS HAVE PREVIOUS GENERATIONS...
...TO BECOME THE LEADER OF IBLIS!

...WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO GET THERE!!
I'M WRONG ABOUT NONE OF IT!
YOU'RE WRONG!!
CLANG
CLANG
YOU CAN'T GET TO THE TOP IF YOU'RE BOUND BY JUSTICE AND MORALS!!!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO SPEAK OF THE TRUE KING OF THIS COUNTRY!!
I WILL LOOK DOWN UPON THIS WORLD...
...FROM THE HIGHEST PERCH, AND I DON'T CARE...

NO MATTER HOW HIGH YOU CLIMB...
...ALL YOU'VE DONE IS CREATE A MOUNTAIN OF CORPSES!
ZIP
YOU'RE FULL OF IT!

AND YOU'LL NEVER...
...BE ABLE TO SEE THE WORLD FROM THERE !!!

I'LL UNLEASH "DIONYSUS" ON HER...
!?
I CAN'T USE WISDOM...
WHACK
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
WAAAH
ANOTHER SECOND, AND YOU WOULD'VE BEEN SKEWERED!
WITHOUT ME AROUND, YOU'RE HOPE...

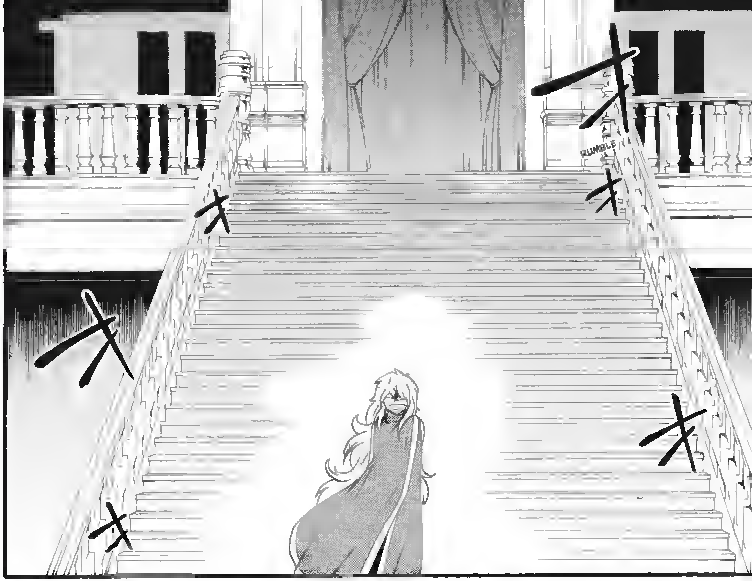
GRAB
..LESS!
THANK THE GODS.....
RIP
RIP
AHH.....
WAH..! WAAAH...!

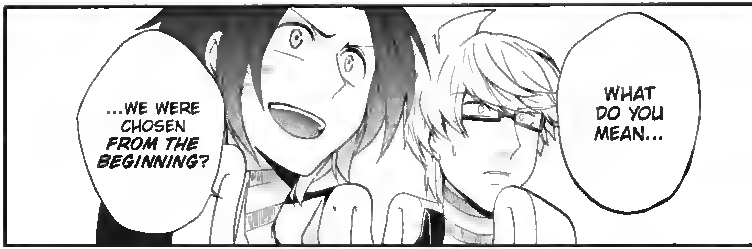
...
YOU'RE
...
...SAFE...
WHAT PART OF THIS IS BEING SAFE...
SQUEEZE
...YOU IDIOT?

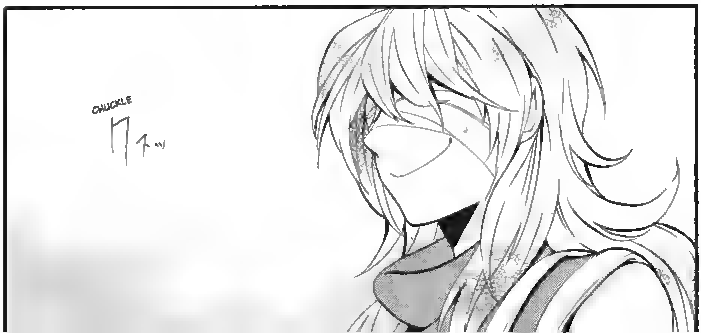
I AM BESET BY BABES IN THE WOOD.
OH, BOTHER.
SPIT

THAT GOES FOR YOU...
CROWD
SAY WHAT YOU WILL, BUT I WON'T TURN BACK NOW.

?
...WHATEVER THEY MAY BE THINKING.
...AS WELL AS THE BANDAGED BASTARD AND MY PATRON ...


RUMBLE


WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
...WE WERE CHOSEN FROM THE BEGINNING?


CHUCKLE

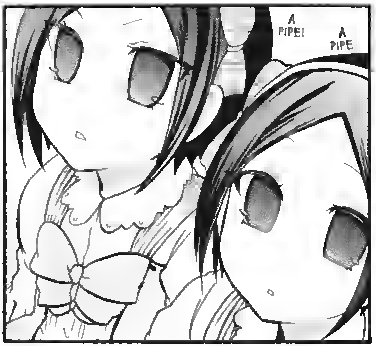
EXACTLY THAT.
SWIP
WE DIDN'T FIND THE BOX.
WE WERE MADE TO FIND IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?
WE HAD FUN SOLVING THE RIDDLE THAT HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR US.
NEED I SAY MORE?

FROM DAY ONE, WE WERE JUST MADE TO DANCE...
...IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.
MILTON!?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS!?
TINKLE カラーン

I'VE COME TO BRING YOU SOLACE, KNOWING HOW LONELY YOU MUST BE.
WHATEVER ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...!?
!

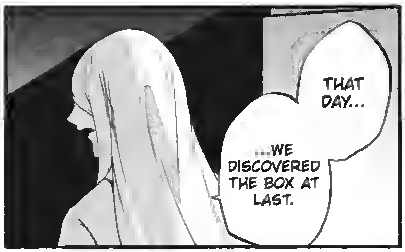
I'M NOT GOING TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN.


A PIPE!
A PIPE

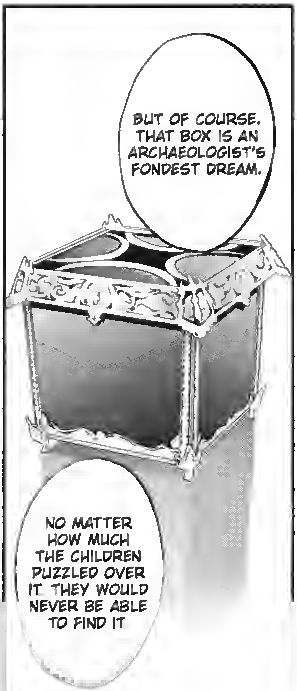
IF YOU GIVE THEM SWEETS, THEY'LL BE OBEDIENT.
AFTER ALL, THEY'RE CUTE, BRIGHT KIDS.
YOU'LL BE FINE, MY FRIEND.

SWF
...I...
SNAP
...I MUST GO SORT THINGS OUT.
THEN IT'S TRUE..... BEFORE THOSE BOYS FOUND THAT BOX...

...YOU TWO FOUND IT, DIDN'T YOU?

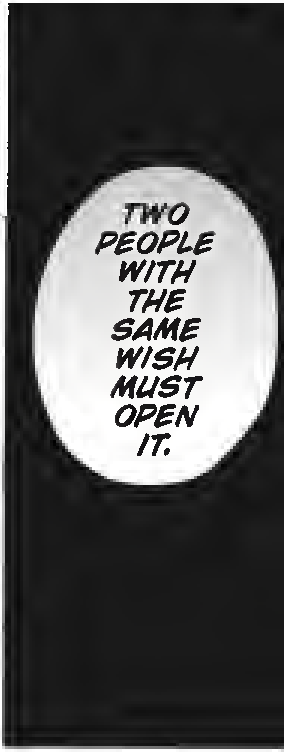

THAT DAY...
...WE DISCOVERED THE BOX AT LAST.

HE WAS BESIDE HIMSELF WITH JOY.
HE SAID WE COULD BECOME GODS AND CREATE A MARVELOUS WORLD.


BUT OF COURSE. THAT BOX IS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST"S FONDEST DREAM.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE CHILDREN PUZZLED OVER IT. THEY WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND IT

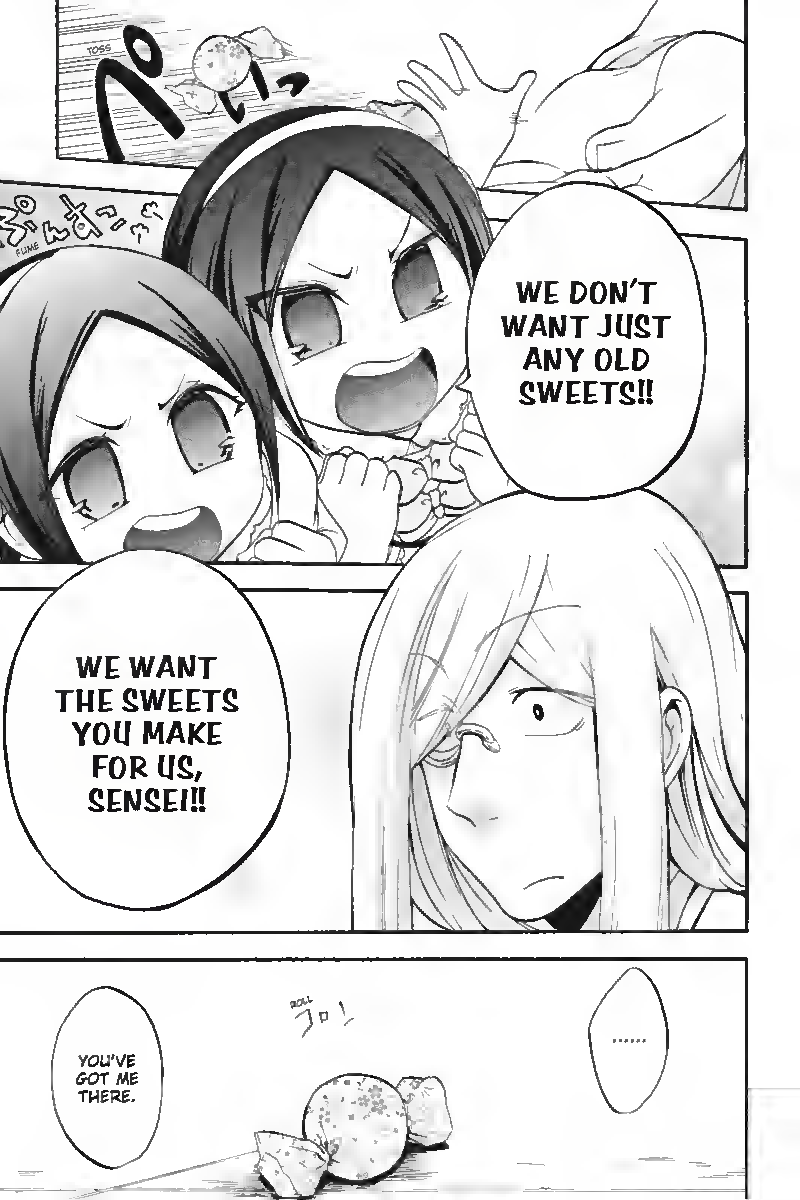
IN THE END, WE WEREN'T ABLE TO FULFILL THE SOLE CONDITION REQUIRED TO OPEN THE BOX...
HOWEVER, AT THE TIME, I WAS AFRAID OF BECOMING "A PAIR OF GODS."

FOR THAT REASON ALONE...
...WE WEREN'T ABLE TO DO IT THAT DAY.


TWO PEOPLE WITH THE SAME WISH MUST OPEN IT.

...AND THEN...
HE CHOSE THE ONES WHOSE IDEALS WERE MOST SIMILAR TO HIS OWN...
SO HE RAN OFF WITH THE BOX, GATHERED CHILDREN, AND RAISED THEM TO THINK THE SAME WAY HE DID.
...HAD THEM OPEN THE BOX.
IT WAS ALL SO THEY WOULD ACT AS HIS PROXY...
...AND CREATE AN IDEAL WORLD.

...TO MAKE UP FOR THE SIN OF BURDENING INNOCENT CHILDREN...
...I MUST NOW GO TO BRING IT TO AN END!
THERE-FORE...
...WHAT THE COST.
NO MATTER...
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS, SO I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE, EN-CHAN, NIN-CHAN.
DON'T WORRY. I'M GOING TO LEAVE ALL THE SWEETS HERE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SENSEIIII?
EN IS GOING TOO!
NIN TOO!


TOSS
ぽいっ
RUMI
ぶんぶんっ
WE DON'T WANT JUST ANY OLD SWEETS!!
WE WANT THE SWEETS YOU MAKE FOR US, SENSEI!!
.....
ROLL
コロ
YOU'VE GOT ME THERE.

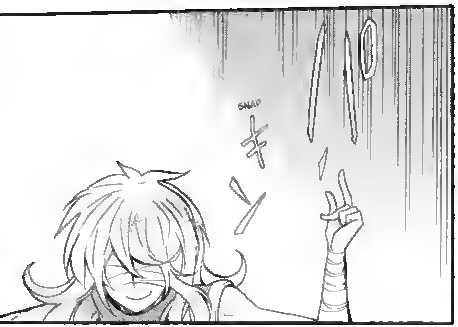
I KNOW!
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'LL FIND HE'S A USELESS OLD MAN
YOU'D BETTER KEEP IT.
VERY WELL. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. I'LL MAKE YOU DELICIOUS PANCAKES WHEN I GET BACK.
PINKY SWEAR!
PROMISE!
...BUT IF I'M LUCKY, I'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT LOSING ANYTHING.
I MEANT TO RESOLVE THIS, WHATEVER THE COST...
...SO NOW IT'S MY TURN TO SHOW WHAT I'M MADE OF!
THEY'RE ALL DOING THEIR BEST OVER THERE ...
IN THE MEANTIME, THOUGH, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

.....
WHAT THE HELL?
WHOOOO
CHUCKLE
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I FIRST HEARD TOO.
GRANTED, "GODS" SOUNDS A LITTLE GENERIC.
SO I CAME UP WITH ANOTHER EXPRESSION.
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU TWO WILL BECOME GODS.
BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THAT MAKE?

"STRING-PULLERS OF THE WORLD."
AS THE NAME IMPLIES, YOU'LL BE BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE WHOLE WORLD, PULLING STRINGS!
YOU'LL CONTROL EVERY-THING.
BY OBTAINING ALL OF THE WISDOM, YOU'LL BECOME OMNISCIENT AND OMNIPOTENT.
YOU'LL CHANGE ALL THE RULES OF THIS WORLD!!

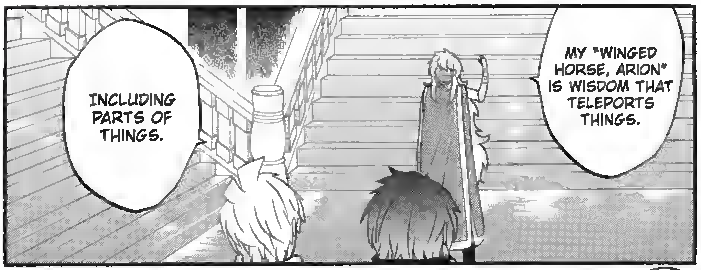
IT WILL BE A WORLD IN WHICH THE RIGHTEOUS ARE SAVED!!
NATURALLY, YOU TWO WILL DECIDE ON WHAT IS MEANT BY "RIGHTEOUS" !!

BUT AS YOU TWO ARE KIND, I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN YOU!!
YOU'LL MAKE THE WORLD A MUCH BETTER PLACE!!


SNAP

SNIP
AND SO, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...
LET'S GATHER THE WISDOM QUICKLY.

HUH ...!?
!!


MY "WINGED HORSE, ARION" IS WISDOM THAT TELEPORTS THINGS.
INCLUDING PARTS OF THINGS.

IN FACT, I'LL BRING YOU...
...THE HEADS OF YOUR FRIENDS RIGHT NOW.

DASH
LAMECH, STOP IT!!!
SNAP
RELAX, OX!
キン
WHUD
ドゴーン
POOF
!

TRUE, THOSE FRIENDS WILL BE DEAD WHEN THEY GET HERE...
...BUT...
...IF YOU NEED THEM, YOU CAN SIMPLY RECREATE THEM ONCE YOU'RE GODS!
ALL YOU'D HAVE TO DO IS SUMMON THEM INSIDE YOUR MINIATURE GARDEN.
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG...
CLENCH
...WE DREAMED OF.
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF WORLD...

CHILD
SWIP
!
LAMECH, CALM DOWN! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!?
WHY WON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, IVAN...?
POOF
10

HERE, IVAN. ACCEPT THIS WISDOM.
LAMECH ...!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO LET ME INTO YOUR MINIATURE GARDEN.
IF YOU PREFER THE WAY I USED TO BE, JUST REMAKE ME THAT WAY. I DON'T MIND.

SO PLEASE, IVAN.
TAKE THIS WISDOM...
DON'T MAKE ME...
...SHOVE IT...
...INTO YOUR HEAD!!!
SNAP
!?

CRASH
CRASH
CRASH
CRASH
CLATTER
CLANG
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

LAMECH!
I'D ASK YOU THE SAME...
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED!
I'M RELIEVED AFTER HEARING YOU OUT!!
WHAT ...!?
...THAT YOU WEREN'T THE SAME GUY WE KNEW BACK THEN!
HONESTLY, I WAS WORRIED...

NO, YOU'RE THE ONES WHO'VE CHANGED!!
I HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL!!
THAT MAY BE TRUE.
AND THAT'S WHY I CAN TELL YOU THIS!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BE SAYING THIS...
...BUT YOU'RE AS KIND AS YOU ARE BECAUSE YOU WENT THROUGH SOMETHING REALLY SAD, RIGHT?
OTHER-WISE, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TALKED TO ME THAT FIRST DAY.

I WAS SO HAPPY BACK THEN!
AND WHEN MY BIRTHDAY WAS DECIDED TOO!! AND WHEN WE ALL CELEBRATED TOGETHER!!
SO...
...MAYBE EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD ISN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL.

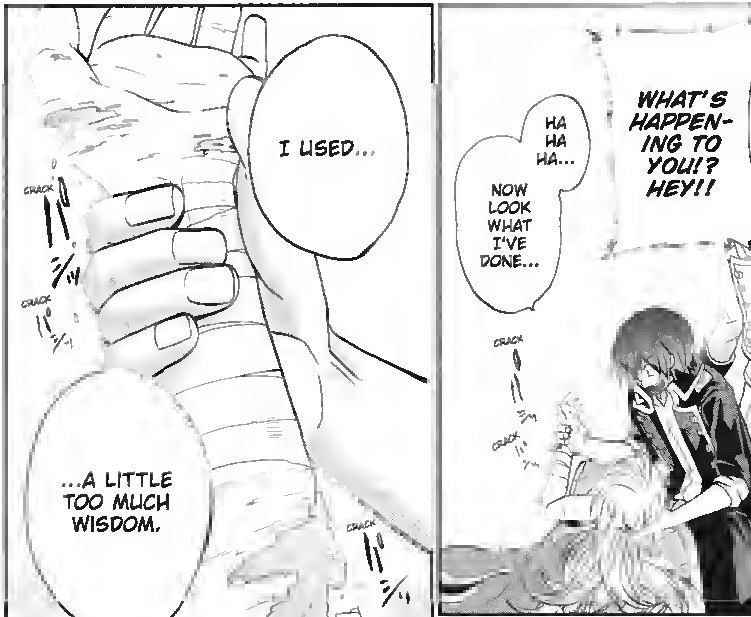
NAH. IN THE END...
OF COURSE THE CURRENT RULES AREN'T PERFECT...
...BUT IT WOULD BE THE SAME IF WE MADE THEM.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
YOU TWO WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A KINDER WORLD!!
...IT WOULD ONLY TURN OUT TO BE A WORLD THAT WAS KIND TO US.

THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD PEOPLE OUT THERE, YOU KNOW.
SO RATHER THAN THAT, EVEN IF IT TAKES TIME...
...I THINK IT'S BETTER IF EVERYONE SEARCHES FOR A KINDER WORLD.
LET'S LOOK FOR IT TOGETHER AGAIN!
ALL OF US.
THEN ALL THIS TIME...
..ALL THIS TIME I'VE BELIEVED IN YOU...

POOF
POOF
POOF
POOF
...WHAT THE HELL WAS IT FOR!!?
CRASH
LAMECH!!
DAM-MIT!
WALLOP

GASP
OX!!
HUH?
CRACK
SNAP
HOLD ON!! I'LL TELEPORT THE RUBBLE AWAY!!

LAMECH!?
DASH
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
I'M OUT... OF TIME...
CRACK
OH...I FORGOT.
CRACK


I USED...
CRACK
CRACK
...A LITTLE TOO MUCH WISDOM.
CRACK
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU!? HEY!!
HA HA HA...
NOW LOOK WHAT I'VE DONE...
CRACK
CRACK

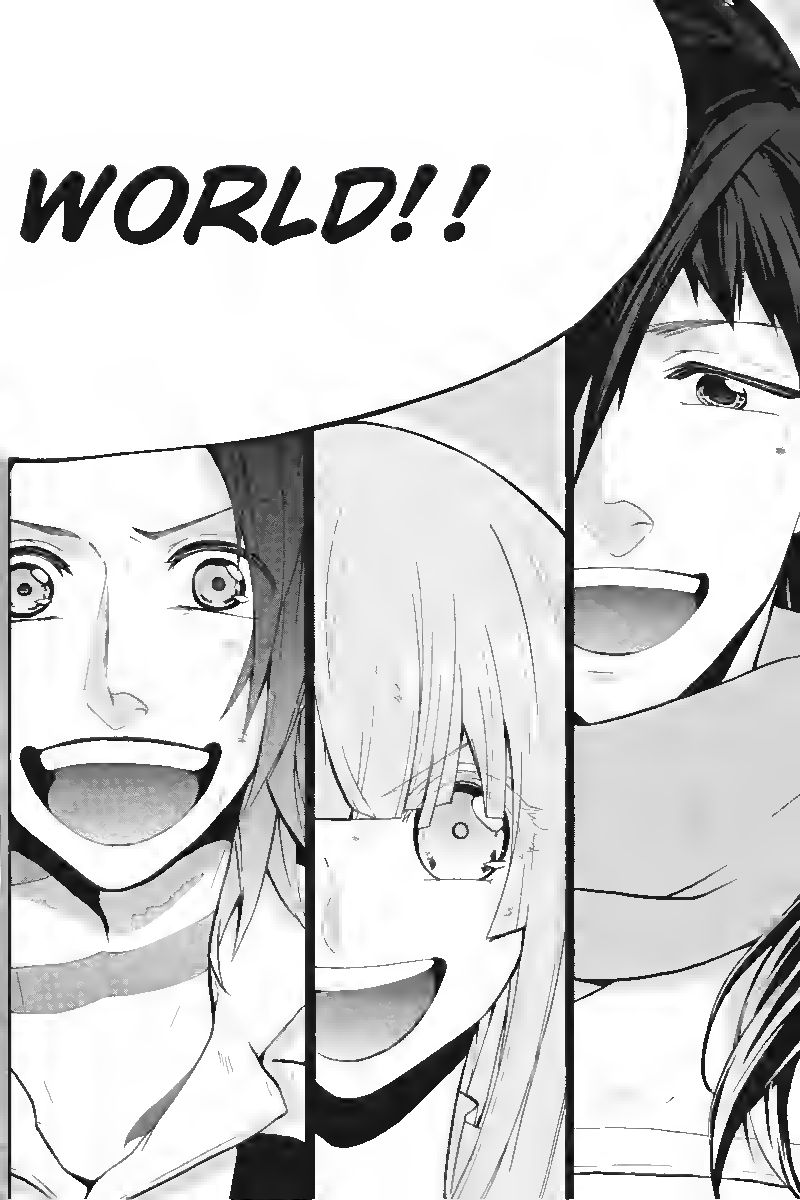
WHETHER YOU TWO REBUILD IT OR NOT...
...IT'LL BECOME A KINDER, GENTLER WORLD ONE DAY.
AH WELL...
IF IT'S A WORLD...

...WHERE OX WILL CRY EVEN FOR ME, THEN I'M SURE OF IT.

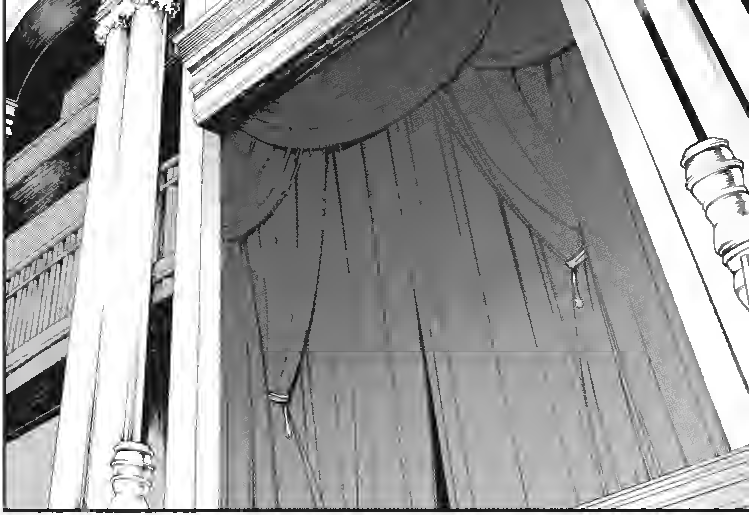
.....
SSG
OK...
I'M OKAY.
EVERYONE ELSE IS STILL FIGHTIN', SO WE CAN'T AFFORD TO STICK AROUND HERE.
SWF
LET'S SAVE OUR *TEARS* FOR UNTIL AFTER EVERYTHING'S SETTLED.
RUB

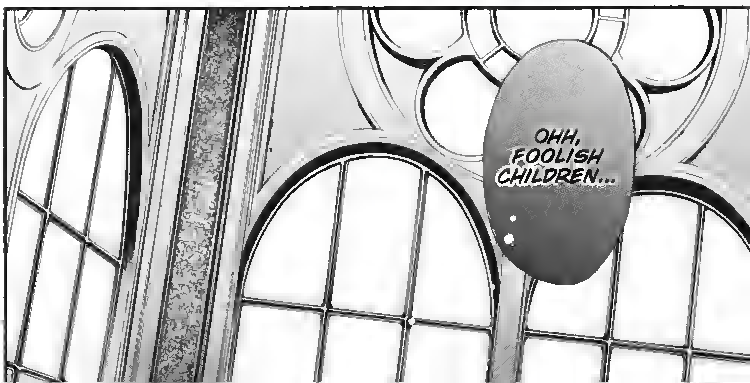
RIGHT NOW, WE GOTTA LOOK AHEAD.
RIGHT?
RIGHT.

I'M SORRY, BUT THE TWO OF US HAVE TO LEAVE HERE...
...SO WE CAN FIND A WAY TO SAVE EVERYONE!
OLD "FOREHEAD" NEEDS OUR HELP TOO.
WELL, SET, ARE YOU UP TO ONE MORE SCRAP?
OF COURSE! LET'S MOW DOWN THESE TIN SOLDIERS.
THEN WE HAVE TO HELP THAT APPLE-HEAD!


WORLD!!

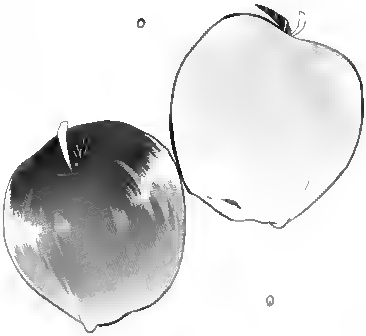
FOR OUR




OHH, FOOLISH CHILDREN...

DESPITE BEING TOLD YOU COULD NEVER RETURN TO EDEN IF YOU PARTOOK OF IT...
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO EAT THAT FRUIT?
AHHH, BELOVED AND LUDICROUS...

MY
SINFUL
CHILDREN...



AFTERWORD

LONG TIME NO SEE, EVERYONE! HOW DID YOU LIKE THE FINAL VOLUME OF *UNKNOWN*!?
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HANGING OUT WITH ME TO THE END!

I DID TRY TO MAKE IT SO THAT AFTER READING THE FOURTH VOLUME IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO GO BACK AND READ THE FIRST ONE.
I AM PREPARED TO BE TORN APART...!
STILL, I HOPE YOU BELIEVE THAT I DID MY VERY BEST ON THIS SERIES, FROM FIRST PAGE TO THE LAST!!
ALTHOUGH I HOPE SOME OF YOU ARE THINKING "YOU'RE ENDING IT HERE!?"

CRACK
I'M JUST A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED THAT I DIDN'T PUT THIS IN.
A "WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?" FIGHT AFTER ABEL'S LEAK...
BAM
FOR THE LAST TWO CHAPTERS I THINK I GOT TO INCLUDE EVERYTHING I WANTED TO BUT THERE IS ONE THING MISSING...
EH?
IVAN-SAN WILL DIE!

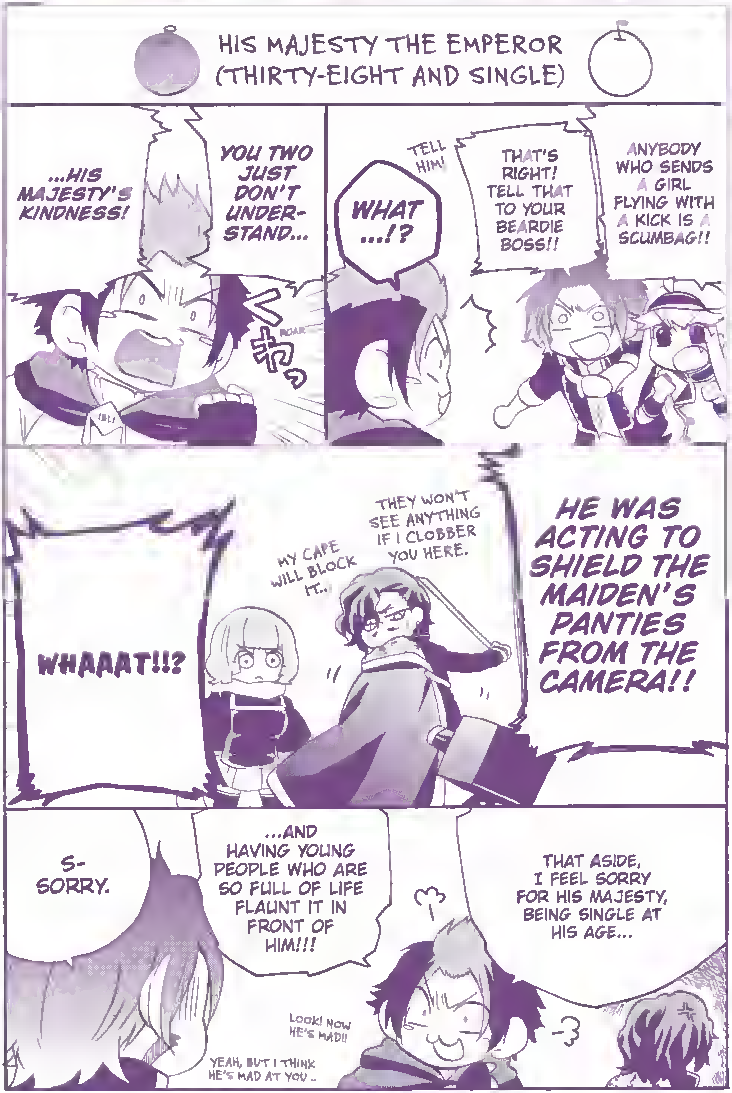
WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THEY'RE GOOD FRIENDS, SO I WANTED TO HAVE THEM AT LEAST FIGHT ONCE...
I'LL KICK YOUR ASS!
..AND SEE BLOOD RUNNING FROM THE USUALLY UNRUFFLED IVAN'S NOSE!!
ALTHOUGH I'M SURE THAT WITHOUT THE WISDOM, IVAN WOULD BE STRONGER
BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE END? I'M LEAVING THAT UP TO YOUR IMAGINATION
LONG TIME NO SEEEE!
NOT LONG EN...UGH...
BYE-BYE!
I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE!

Special Thanks

TAKAHASHI-SAN, OIKAWA-SAN,
SASAI-SAN,
HAKKA-SAN, NARUMI-CHAN

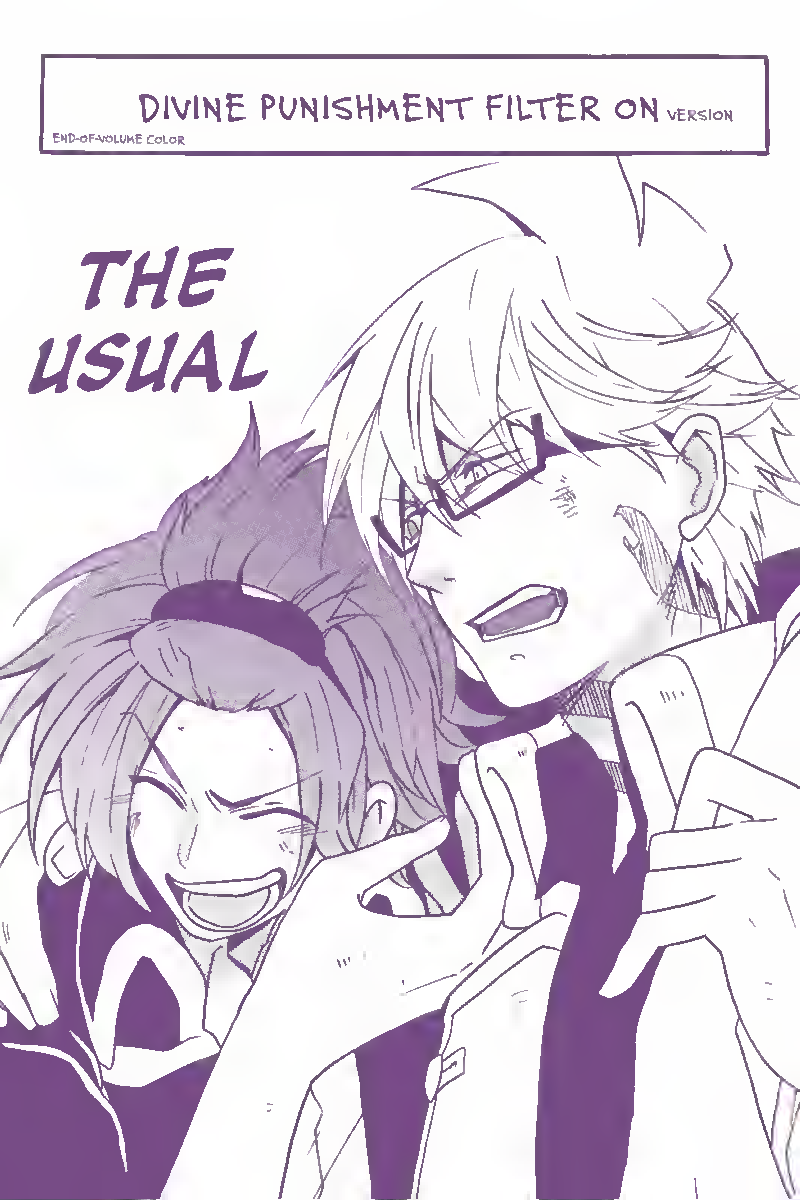
HARLEKIN
TAJIKA
TOMOJO
MACCHO
YCK

NOZAKI SAN!!


HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR (THIRTY-EIGHT AND SINGLE)
...HIS MAJESTY'S KINDNESS!
YOU TWO JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND...
ROAR
TELL HIM!
WHAT ...!?
THAT'S RIGHT! TELL THAT TO YOUR BEARDIE BOSS!!
ANYBODY WHO SENDS A GIRL FLYING WITH A KICK IS A SCUMBAG!!
WHAAAT!!?
MY CAPE WILL BLOCK IT..
THEY WON'T SEE ANYTHING IF I CLOBBER YOU HERE.
HE WAS ACTING TO SHIELD THE MAIDEN'S PANTIES FROM THE CAMERA!!
S-SORRY.
...AND HAVING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE SO FULL OF LIFE FLAUNT IT IN FRONT OF HIM!!!
THAT ASIDE, I FEEL SORRY FOR HIS MAJESTY, BEING SINGLE AT HIS AGE...
LOOK! NOW HE'S MAD!!
YEAH, BUT I THINK HE'S MAD AT YOU..

DIVINE PUNISHMENT FILTER ON VERSION

END-OF-VOLUME COLOR



UNKNOWN 4

Tsumuji Yoshimura

Translation: Sheldon Drzka
Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

UNKNOWN Volume 4 ©2014 Tsumuji Yoshimura/Square Enix Co., Ltd. First published in Japan in 2014 by Square Enix Co., Ltd. English translation rights arranged with Square Enix Co., Ltd. and Hachette Book Group through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.

Translation ©2016 by Square Enix Co., Ltd.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2016

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-27549-1

App ISBN: 978-0-316-36243-6